

read in ENGLISH

UMA
MANEIRA
DIVERTIDA
DE APRENDER
INGLÊS



Rubens Queiroz de Almeida

novatec



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Novatec

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*Este livro é dedicado aos meus pais, que foram o prêmio grande
que a loteria da vida me deu.*

Prefácio

Este livro é um complemento ao método de inglês instrumental que venho desenvolvendo há muitos anos. O método tem como fundação um outro livro chamado *As Palavras Mais Comuns da Língua Inglesa*, também publicado pela editora Novatec. O inglês instrumental, ou inglês apenas para leitura, é uma habilidade relativamente fácil de se dominar. Requer que o aluno aprenda algumas técnicas simples de serem usadas e que, principalmente, tenha o hábito de ler. Entretanto, uma das maiores dificuldades que encontrei ao ministrar aulas foi justamente encontrar formas de motivar os alunos a lerem. Em uma destas aulas, perguntei a um aluno se ele tinha o hábito de ler. Ele disse que não e que não gostava de ler. Continuei perguntando se realmente não havia nada que ele gostasse de ler, e ele sempre na negativa. Por fim, veio-me uma inspiração e perguntei se ele gostava de piadas. A resposta veio entusiasmada e ele afirmou enfaticamente que gostava. Daí veio a ideia de preparar material de leitura baseado em piadas ou citações.

Essa ideia deu origem a uma lista eletrônica chamada *English for Reading* ou *efr2*, hoje hospedada no site *YahooGroups* (<http://br.groups.yahoo.com/group/efr2>). Esta lista veicula diariamente uma mensagem contendo um texto, de preferência engraçado, com o vocabulário comentado. A ideia é manter os alunos interessados em aprender inglês diariamente em contato com a língua inglesa, de forma que possam aprender todos os dias alguma coisa nova. De grão em grão... Os textos foram coletados de diversas fontes na Internet e tentou-se obter uma seleção que não contivesse material ofensivo, de maneira a ser apropriado para todos os tipos de audiência. Não foi feita nenhuma adaptação ao material, são textos em inglês autêntico.

Para quem não tem familiaridade com a língua inglesa, recomendo o estudo do material contido no livro *As Palavras Mais Comuns da Língua Inglesa*. O vocabulário comentado não aborda os múltiplos significados que uma palavra possa ter. É apresentado apenas o significado que a palavra assume dentro do contexto apresentado. O objetivo é apenas esclarecer a história. Você pode fazer a leitura deste livro da maneira que julgar melhor. As histórias não precisam ser lidas em sequência; leia apenas aquelas que julgar mais interessantes, mais simples, enfim, use este livro da forma que lhe for mais

confortável. Um esforço excessivo para dominar este material pode gerar o efeito adverso e afastá-lo por um longo tempo de seu aprendizado de inglês, o que certamente nenhum de nós deseja. Quem quiser aprender a ler em inglês certamente vai encontrar neste material um poderoso aliado. A minha recomendação é que você marque as suas histórias favoritas e as releia diversas vezes, até compreender integralmente a história e todo o seu vocabulário. Esta técnica reforçará não apenas a sua habilidade de leitura, mas reforçará sua capacidade de escrever, ouvir e falar o idioma inglês.

Uma outra forma interessante de usar este material é fazer um teatrinho com algumas das situações do livro. Junte alguns amigos interessados em aprender a falar inglês e faça uma encenação das histórias. Esta é uma forma muito divertida e interessante de aprender estruturas gramaticais e desenvolver a fluência. Se preferir estudar individualmente, faça uso da visualização para melhor retenção. Feche os olhos e imagine todos os personagens das histórias, ouça-os com seu ouvido interno e dê muitas risadas. Quanto mais você se divertir, melhores serão os resultados.

Não deixe de visitar o nosso endereço na Internet, onde mantemos uma grande quantidade de material sobre aprendizado de idiomas, desbloqueio de aprendizagem, músicas, livros eletrônicos, boletins informativos e muito mais. O endereço é www.idph.net.

Espero que este material lhe seja útil e que lhe ajude a dominar melhor a língua inglesa, algo que, cada vez mais, é vital para o desempenho competente de muitas profissões. Se você já sabe inglês, certamente vai se divertir muito com as histórias que estão aqui.

1

Total Control

I am in total control, but don't tell my wife.

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- wife – esposa

2

Tomorrow

Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may work.

Vocabulary Help

- merry – alegre
- tomorrow – amanhã

3

Rocker

You're getting old when you're sitting in a rocker and you can't get it started.

Vocabulary Help

- rocker – cadeira de balanço
- get it started – colocar para funcionar

4

Politicians

The only way for a reporter to look at a politician is down.

Vocabulary Help

- only way – única maneira
- look at – olhar

- look down – desprezar
- politician – político

5

Statistics on Sanity

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they are okay, then it's you.

RITA MAE BROWN

Vocabulary Help

- sanity – sanidade
- mental illness – doença mental

6

Opportunities

Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them.

Vocabulary Help

- disguised – disfarçadas
- hard work – trabalho duro
- people – pessoas
- recognize – reconhecer

7

Getting Fat

Middle age is when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.

Vocabulary Help

- middle age – meia-idade
- grow (grow, grew, grown) – crescer

- both ends – ambos os lados
- middle – meio

8

Kind Words

You can get a lot more done with a kind word and a gun, than with a kind word alone.

AL CAPONE

Vocabulary Help

- get a lot more done – fazer muito mais
- kind words – palavras gentis
- gun – arma
- alone – apenas

9

Health

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

REDD FOXX

Vocabulary Help

- health nuts – pessoas obsecadas com a saúde
- feel stupid – sentir-se estúpido
- lying in hospitals – deitados em hospitais
- die (dying) – morrer (morrendo)

10

Hens

Why do hens lay eggs?

If they dropped them, they'd break.

Vocabulary Help

- hens – galinhas
- drop – deixar cair
- break – quebrar

11

Competence

Competence, like truth, beauty, and contact lenses, is in the eye of the beholder

DR. LAURENCE J. PETER

Vocabulary Help

- truth – verdade
- beauty – beleza
- contact lenses – lentes de contato
- beholder – observador

12

Laughing

They laughed at Einstein. They laughed at the Wright Brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.

CARL SAGAN

Vocabulary Help

- laugh – rir
- clown – palhaço

13

Happy Marriages

What nonsense people talk about happy marriages! A man can be happy with any woman so long as he doesn't love her.

OSCAR WILDE

Vocabulary Help

- nonsense – idiotice
- people – pessoas
- happy marriages – casamentos felizes

14

Rule of Life Number 1

Rule of Life #1 – Never get separated from your luggage.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Vocabulary Help

- rule – regra
- luggage – bagagem

15

Lies

There are a lot of lies going around... and half of them are true.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Vocabulary Help

- lies – mentiras
- going around – por aí
- half of them – metade delas
- true – verdadeiras

16

Aiming for the Moon

Aim for the moon. If you miss, you may hit a star.

W. CLEMENT STONE

Vocabulary Help

- aim – mirar
- moon – lua
- miss – errar

- hit – atingir
- star – estrela

17

The First Communists

Q. Who were the first communists?

A. Adam and Eve. They had no clothes, no apartment, only one apple between them, and thought they lived in Paradise.

Vocabulary Help

- clothes – roupas
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar

18

Getting Old

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

Vocabulary Help

- getting old – ficando velho
- rocking chair – cadeira de balanço
- roller coaster – montanha-russa

19

Bad Grades

Teacher: Well, at least there's one thing I can say about your son.

Father: What's that?

Teacher: With grades like these, he couldn't be cheating.

Vocabulary Help

- at least – ao menos, no mínimo
- grades – notas

- cheat – colar

20

Distress

A disease incurred by exposure to the prosperity of a friend.

AMBROSE BIERCE, "THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY"

Vocabulary Help

- disease – doença
- incurred by – causada por
- prosperity – prosperidade

21

Bad Men

A woman has got to love a bad man once or twice in her life to be thankful for a good one.

MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS

Vocabulary Help

- bad man – homem ruim
- once or twice – uma vez ou duas
- thankful – grata

22

The Aging Process

The aging process could be slowed down if it had to work its way through Congress.

Vocabulary Help

- aging process – processo de envelhecimento
- slow down – desacelerar
- work its way – achar o caminho
- through – através

23

Failure

Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

HENRY FORD

Vocabulary Help

- failure – fracasso
- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- again – novamente

24

Smoking

Anyone seen smoking will be assumed to be on fire and will be summarily put out.

Vocabulary Help

- smoking – fumando
- assumed – assumir
- to be on fire – estar pegando fogo
- put out – apagado

25

Barbie

Have you heard about the new “barbie”?

She’s called divorcee barbie.

She comes with all of Ken’s belongings!!!

Vocabulary Help

- hear (hear, heard, heard) – ouvir
- belongings – posses

26

Tools

Man must shape his tools lest they shape him.

ARTHUR R. MILLER

Vocabulary Help

- must – precisa
- shape – moldar
- tools – ferramentas

27

What Is a Committee?

What is a committee? A group of the unwilling, picked from the unfit, to do the unnecessary.

RICHARD HARKNESS

Vocabulary Help

- unwilling – sem vontade
- pick – pegar
- unfit – inadequados

28

Perfection

The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form.

STANLEY J. RANDALL

Vocabulary Help

- closest to – mais próximo de
- fill out – preencher
- application form – formulário de emprego

29

Furniture

Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark.

Vocabulary Help

- shin – canela da perna
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- furniture – mobília
- dark – escuro

30

Action

At my age, “getting a little action” means I don’t need to take a laxative

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- little action – ação
- mean – significar
- laxative – laxante

31

Make no Questions

If you know the answer to a question, don’t ask.

PETERSEN NESBIT

Vocabulary Help

- know (know, knew, known) – conhecer
- answer – resposta
- ask – perguntar

32

Going Fishing

My wife says if I go fishing one more time, she’s going to leave me. Gosh, I’m going to miss her.

Vocabulary Help

- go fishing – ir pescar
- leave me – me abandonar
- miss her – sentir falta dela

33

Punishment

Little Johnny: Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?

Teacher: Of course not.

Little Johnny: Good, because I didn't do my homework.

Vocabulary Help

- punish – punir
- homework – dever de casa

34

Statistics

Statistics show that at the age of seventy, there are five women to every man. Isn't that the darnedest time for a guy to get those odds?

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- darnedest – impróprio, danado
- guy – cara

35

Poets

Immature poets imitate, mature poets steal.

T.S. ELIOT, "PHILIP MASSINGER"

Vocabulary Help

- immature – imaturos

- steal (steal, stole, stolen) – roubar

36

Lifetime

A lifetime isn't nearly long enough to figure out what it's all about.

Vocabulary Help

- lifetime – vida
- long enough – longa o suficiente
- figure out – descobrir
- what it's all about – do que se trata

37

Praise

I would gladly raise my voice in praise of women, only they won't let me raise my voice.

WINKLE

Vocabulary Help

- gladly – alegremente
- raise – levantar
- praise – elogio
- won't (will not) – não irão

38

New Clothes

Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes, and not rather a new wearer of clothes.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Vocabulary Help

- beware – cuidado
- enterprises – empresas

- clothes – roupas

39

Knowledge

Nothing is so firmly believed as that which we least know.

MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE

Vocabulary Help

- believe – acreditar
- least know – o que menos sabemos

40

Windows

Q: Why don't they let government workers look out the window in the morning?

A: So they will have something to do in the afternoon.

Vocabulary Help

- look out the window – olhar pela janela
- something to do in the afternoon – alguma coisa para fazer a tarde

41

Generations

It's hard to say when one generation ends and the next begins – but it's somewhere around nine or ten at night.

CHARLES RUFFING

Vocabulary Help

- hard to say – difícil dizer
- begin – começar

42

Luck

You're getting old when getting lucky means you find your car in the parking lot.

Vocabulary Help

- lucky – sortudo
- means – significa
- find – encontrar
- parking lot – estacionamento

43

Grow Up

I may be getting older, but I refuse to grow up!

Vocabulary Help

- get older – ficar mais velho
- refuse – recusar-se
- grow up – crescer

44

Optimization

Premature optimization is the root of all evil.

D.E. KNUTH

Vocabulary Help

- premature – prematura
- root of all evil – raiz de todo o mal

45

Phoneless Cord

For people who like peace and quiet: a phoneless cord.

Vocabulary Help

- people – pessoas
- peace – paz
- phoneless cord – fio sem telefone

46

Purpose in Life

All my life I always wanted to be somebody. Now I see that I should have been more specific.

Vocabulary Help

- somebody – alguém
- life – vida
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver

47

Politicians and Diapers

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly... and for the same reason.

Vocabulary Help

- diapers – fraldas
- politicians – políticos

48

Nowlan's Theory

He who hesitates is not only lost, but several miles from the next freeway exit.

Vocabulary Help

- lost – perdido
- miles – milhas
- freeway – autoestrada
- exit – saída

49

Signs of Old Age

There are three signs of old age. The first is your loss of memory. The other two I forget.

Vocabulary Help

- old age – idade avançada
- loss of memory – perda de memória
- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer

50

Wisdom

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone.

Vocabulary Help

- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- wisdom – sabedoria
- age – idade
- alone – sozinha

51

Self-Made Man

No self-made man ever did such a good job that some woman didn't want to make some alterations.

KIM HUBBARD

Vocabulary Help

- self-made man – homem que venceu por si próprio
- good job – bom trabalho

52

Maslow's Maxim

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you treat everything like a nail.

Vocabulary Help

- tool – ferramenta
- hammer – martelo
- nail – prego

53

Mediocrity

After all, it is only the mediocre who are always at their best.

JEAN GIRAUDOUX

Vocabulary Help

- after all – depois de tudo
- only – apenas
- always – sempre

54

Mortality

It's very inconvenient to be mortal – you never know when everything may suddenly stop happening.

Vocabulary Help

- suddenly – subitamente
- happen – acontecer

55

Modeling

When God created man before he created woman, remember that artists make models first before they make masterpieces.

Vocabulary Help

- God – Deus

- remember – lembrar
- masterpieces – obras de arte

56

My Dog

Teacher: Desmond, your composition on “My Dog” is exactly the same as your brother’s. Did you copy his?

Desmond: No, teacher, it’s the same dog!

Vocabulary Help

- same dog – mesmo cachorro

57

Miseries

Of all men’s miseries, the bitterest is this: to know so much and have control over nothing.

HERODOTUS

Vocabulary Help

- bitterest – mais amarga
- know so much – saber tanto

58

Research

Research is what I’m doing when I don’t know what I’m doing.

WERNHER VON BRAUN

Vocabulary Help

- research – pesquisa
- do (do, did, done) – fazer

59

Sexy Men

If a man is bald at the front, he is a thinker. If he is bald at the back he is sexy. If he is bald from front to back he thinks he is sexy.

Vocabulary Help

- bald – careca
- thinker – pensador

60

The Greatest Obstacle to Discovery

“The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance – it is the illusion of knowledge.”

DANIEL J. BOORSTIN

Vocabulary Help

- discovery – descubrimiento
- knowledge – conocimiento

61

Theoretical Chemistry

All theoretical chemistry is really physics; and all theoretical chemists know it.

RICHARD P. FEYNMAN

Vocabulary Help

- theoretical chemistry – química teórica
- know (know, knew, known) – saber

62

Word of Honor

The best way to keep one’s word is not to give it.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

Vocabulary Help

- keep one's word – manter a palavra
- not to give it – não dá-la

63

Women

Worlds are conquered, galaxies destroyed – but a woman is always a woman.

KIRK, "THE CONSCIENCE OF THE KING", STARDATE 2818.9

Vocabulary Help

- conquer – conquistar
- destroy – destruir

64

Prisoners

Each man is his own prisoner, in solitary confinement for life.

Vocabulary Help

- own – próprio
- confinement – confinamento
- life – vida

65

The Truth

What one believes to be true either is true or becomes true.

JOHN LILLY

Vocabulary Help

- believe – acreditar
- true – verdade
- become – tornar-se, vir a ser

66

The Secret of Happiness

The secret of happiness is total disregard of everybody.

Vocabulary Help

- happiness – felicidade
- disregard – desconsideração
- everybody – todos

67

To Be Loved

To be loved is very demoralizing.

KATHARINE HEPBURN

Vocabulary Help

- demoralizing – desmoralizante

68

The Hypochondriac

Doctor to patient: I have good news and bad news: the good news is that you are not a hypochondriac.

Vocabulary Help

- good news – boas notícias
- bad news – más notícias

69

The Invention of Language

Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain.

LILY TOMLIN

Vocabulary Help

- deep need – necessidade profunda
- complain – reclamar

70

Things Worth Having

If a thing's worth having, it's worth cheating for.

W.C. FIELDS

Vocabulary Help

- worth having – vale a pena possuir
- cheat – enganar, trapacear

71

Making Money with Fools

Never call a man a fool. Borrow from him.

Vocabulary Help

- never – nunca
- fool – tolo
- borrow – tomar emprestado

72

Who Did It?

Jone's Law: The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on.

Vocabulary Help

- smile – sorrir
- wrong – errado
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- blame – culpar

73

The Mafia and Einstein

Why did the Mafia kill Einstein?

Vocabulary Help

- kill – matar
- knew too much – sabia muito

74

Computers and Air Conditioners

Computers are like air conditioners: they stop working properly when you open windows.

Vocabulary Help

- air conditioners – condicionadores de ar
- stop working – param de funcionar

75

Language

Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.

Vocabulary Help

- drawing on – fazendo uso
- fine command – excelente domínio

76

How to do things

Make it right before you make it faster.

Vocabulary Help

- make it right – faça certo
- make it faster – fazer mais rápido

77

People

Learning about people the hard way – by being one.

Vocabulary Help

- learn (learn, learnt, learnt) – aprender
- hard way – maneira mais difícil

78

Loneliness

It's lonely at the top, but you eat better.

Vocabulary Help

- lonely – solitário
- eat – comer

79

Living

Live within your income, even if you have to borrow to do so.

JOSH BILLINGS

Vocabulary Help

- income – renda
- borrow – pedir emprestado

80

Culture

Culture is the habit of being pleased with the best and knowing why.

Vocabulary Help

- being pleased with best – sentir-se satisfeito com o melhor
- knowing why – sabendo porque

81

Perfect People

Practically perfect people never permit sentiment to muddle their thinking.

MARY POPPINS

Vocabulary Help

- muddle – confundir, atrapalhar

82

Losing One's Mind

I haven't lost my mind – it's backed up on tape somewhere.

Vocabulary Help

- mind – mente
- backed up – salva, armazenada
- tape – fita

83

Heaven and Earth

There are more things in heaven and earth than any place else.

Vocabulary Help

- heaven – céus
- earth – terra

84

Generalizations

All generalizations are false, including this one.

Vocabulary Help

- generalizations – generalizações
- including – incluindo

85

Watch the Step

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

Vocabulary Help

- wise – sábio
- watch his step – olhar onde pisa

86

The Busy Man

If you want work well done, select a busy man – the other kind has no time.

ELBERT HUBBARD

Vocabulary Help

- well done – bem feito
- busy man – homem ocupado
- the other kind – o outro tipo

87

Celebrating his 100th Birthday

Grandpa Cartmell was celebrating his 100th birthday and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared.

“Gentlemen, I will tell you the secret of my success,” he cackled. “I have been in the open air day after day for some 75 years now.”

The celebrants were impressed and asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime.

“Well, you see my wife and I were married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, we made a solemn pledge. Whenever we had a fight, the one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk.”

Vocabulary Help

- grandpa – avô
- open air – ar livre
- manage – conseguir

- keep up – manter
- fitness – forma física
- wedding night – noite de núpcias
- pledge – voto
- fight – discussão
- wrong – errado
- take a walk – dar um passeio

88

Peace and Quiet

A man is boasting to his friends that he is taking his wife to Rome for their 40th wedding anniversary.

“What will you do for your 50th?” one of them asks.

“I’ll go and get her.”

Vocabulary Help

- boast – vangloriar
- I’ll go and get her – Vou voltar e buscá-la

89

A Bank Robbery

Two lawyers are in a bank, when, suddenly, armed robbers burst in. While several of the robbers take the money from the tellers, others line the customers, including the lawyers, up against a wall, and proceed to take their wallets, watches etc.

While this is going on lawyer number one jams something in lawyer number two’s hand.

Without looking down, lawyer number two whispers, “What is this?” to which lawyer number one replies, “It’s that \$50 I owe you.”

Vocabulary Help

- suddenly – subitamente

- burst in – invadir, entrar subitamente
- several – vários, muitos
- tellers – caixas de banco
- line the customers – colocar os clientes em fila
- wallet – carteira
- watch – relógio
- look down – olhar para baixo
- whisper – sussurrar
- reply – responder
- owe – dever

90

Relativity

When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute and it's longer than any hour. That's relativity.

EINSTEIN

Vocabulary Help

- sit (sit, sat, sat) – sentar
- pretty girl – garota bonita
- seems like – parece
- hot stove – fogão quente

91

A Parrot Joke

There was a man who traveled all around the world. Every city he stopped in, he would buy something for his mother and send it to her. On one such stop he found a parrot that spoke thirty different languages. He immediately bought it and sent it home to his mother.

A few days later he calls his mother:

“Did you like the parrot?” he asked her.

“Oh yes,” she replied. “It was delicious.”

“WHAT!” the man cried. “You ate it! That parrot wasn’t for you to eat! It spoke thirty languages!”

The mother paused for a moment and then said:

“So why didn’t he say something?”

Vocabulary Help

- travel – viajar
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- send (send, sent, sent) – enviar
- parrot – papagaio
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer

92

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence usually beats real stupidity.

Vocabulary Help

- beat – derrotar, bater

93

A Car Crash

Middle of the night, middle of nowhere, two cars both slightly cross over the white line in the centre of the road.

They collide and a fair amount of damage is done, although neither driver is hurt. It’s impossible to assess blame for the accident on either however. They both get out. One is a doctor, one is a lawyer.

The lawyer calls the police on his car phone; they’ll be there in 20 minutes. It’s cold and damp, and both men are shaken up.

The lawyer offers the doctor a drink of brandy from his hip flask, the doctor accepts, drinks and hands it back to the lawyer, who puts it away.

“Aren’t you going to have a drink?” the doctor says.

“AFTER the police get here,” replies the lawyer.

Vocabulary Help

- slightly – levemente
- amount – total, quantidade
- damage – dano, prejuízo
- driver – motorista
- assess – avaliar
- blame – culpa
- cold – frio
- damp – úmido
- shaken up – abalados
- flask – frasco
- hand back – devolver
- reply – responder

94

Guarantees

No one can guarantee the actions of another.

SPOCK, “DAY OF THE DOVE”, STARDATE UNKNOWN

Vocabulary Help

- guarantee – garantir

95

Political Science

Socialism – You have two cows. The government takes one to give to someone else.

Communism – You have two cows. The government takes both and gives you the milk.

Fascism – You have two cows. The government takes both and sells you the milk.

Nazism – You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

Bureaucracy – You have two cows. The government takes both, shoots one and pours the milk down the drain.

Capitalism – You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

Anarchy – Steal neighbour's bull, shoot the government.

Vocabulary Help

- cow – vaca
- give – dar
- someone else – alguma outra pessoa
- both – ambas
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- shoot – matar com arma de fogo
- drain – ralo, esgoto
- bull – touro
- steal – roubar
- neighbour – vizinho

96

Getting Things Done

The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.

RICHARD BACH, "ILLUSIONS"

Vocabulary Help

- get something done – fazer algo

97

A Letter From School

Dear Dad,

School i\$ really great. I am making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need. \$o if you would like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.

Love,

Your \$on.

Dear Son

I kNOw that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kNOwledge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.

Love,

Dad

Vocabulary Help

- need – precisar
- send (send, sent, sent) – enviar
- hear (hear, heard, heard) – ouvir
- enough – suficiente
- keep (keep, kept, kept) – manter
- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer
- pursuit – busca
- knowledge – conhecimento

98

Three Kinds of People

There are three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

Vocabulary Help

- kinds – tipos
- people – pessoas
- count – contar

99

Aging and Marriage

A couple had been married for 25 years and also celebrated their 60th birthdays. During the celebration a fairy appeared and said that because they

had been such a loving couple all those years, she would give them one wish each.

The wife wanted to travel around the world. The fairy waved her wand and “Boom!” She had the tickets in her hand.

Next, it was the husband’s turn. He paused for a moment, then said shyly, “Well, I’d like to have a woman 30 years younger than me.”

The fairy picked up her wand and “Boom!”

He was 90.

Vocabulary Help

- aging – ficar velho
- marriage – casamento
- fairy – fada
- couple – casal
- wish – desejo
- travel – viajar
- wave – balançar
- wand – varinha de condão
- turn – vez
- shyly – timidamente
- pick up – pegar

100

Adventure

Without adventure, civilization is in full decay.

Alfred North Whitehead

Vocabulary Help

- decay – decadência

101

Abraham Lincoln

In his legal practice, Abraham Lincoln was never greedy for fees and discouraged unnecessary litigation.

A man came to him in a passion, asking him to bring a suit for \$2.50 against an impoverished debtor. Lincoln tried to dissuade him, but the man was determined upon revenge. When he said that the creditor was not to be put off, Lincoln asked for and got \$10 as his legal fee.

He gave half of this to the defendant, who thereupon willingly confessed to the debt and paid up the \$2.50, thus settling the matter to the entire satisfaction of the irate plaintiff.

Vocabulary Help

- greedy – ganancioso
- fee – honorários
- bring (bring, brought, brought) – entrar (com uma ação judicial)
- suit – ação legal
- impoverished debtor – devedor empobrecido
- revenge – vingança
- put off – perdoar
- defendant – réu
- thereupon – em seguida
- willingly – voluntariamente
- settling – encerrando
- plaintiff – reclamante

102

The President

I wish a robot would get elected president. That way, when he came to town, we could all take a shot at him and not feel too bad.

JACK HANDLEY

Vocabulary Help

- town – cidade
- take a shot at him – atirar nele

- not feel too bad – não se sentir mal

103

Hearing Problems

A rather senile old lady went to her doctor complaining of a feeling of fullness in her ear. After the examination, the doctor initiated a conversation that went as follows:

D: I think you have a suppository in your ear.

L: ?eh?

D: Madam – You have a SUPPOSITORY in your EAR!

L: ??EH??

D: (shouting) – IN YOUR EAR! – A SUPPOSITORY!!!

L: Oh, thank Goodness – now I know where I put my hearing aid....

Vocabulary Help

- senile – senil
- go (go, went, gone) – ir
- complain – reclamar
- feeling – sentimento
- fullness – sentimento de estar cheio
- ear – ouvido
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- thank Goodness – Graças a Deus
- hearing aid – aparelho auditivo

104

At the Airport

Tourist: “How much is it to the Airport?”

Taxi driver: “That’s five pounds twenty.”

Tourist: “And how much is it for the luggage?”

Taxi driver: “The luggage, of course, is free.”

Tourist: “All right, just take that stuff along. I’m walking.”

Vocabulary Help

- pounds – moeda inglesa, libra
- luggage – bagagem
- free – grátis
- take (take, took, taken) – levar

105

At the Confessionary

This priest was hearing a woman’s confession when a drunk stumbled into the booth on the opposite side. As the priest was finishing with her, he heard the drunk groaning as if in quite some pain.

He slid open the other panel and asked, “Are you ok?”

All he heard was another groan. He asked again and the drunk finally replied, “Yeah, I feel lots better. Do you have any toilet paper on your side?”

Vocabulary Help

- priest – padre
- hear – ouvir
- drunk – bêbado
- booth – biombo
- groan – gemer
- slide (slide, slid, slid) – abrir (janela de correr)
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- toilet paper – papel higiênico

106

At the City

A farmer and his wife were checking into a hotel in a large Texas city.

“What time do you have your meals around here?” the farmer asked.

“We serve breakfast from 7 to 11,” said the clerk, “lunch from 12 to 3 and

dinner from 6 to 8.”

“Wait just a minute,” said the farmer, “When are we gonna have time to see the town?”

Vocabulary Help

- farmer – fazendeiro
- meals – refeições
- gonna, going to – teremos
- town – cidade

107

Back to School

An economist is back in his old college town many years after graduation and decides to drop in on one of his old professors.

He happens to see a copy of an exam sitting on the desk, so he picks it up to look at it.

Upon deciding that it looks familiar, he comments to the professor that it is the same exam that he had taken 10 years ago.

The professor assures him that this is correct but adds that this time the answers are different.

Vocabulary Help

- drop in – visitar
- pick up – pegar
- look at – olhar, examinar, inspecionar
- 10 years ago – dez anos atrás
- look familiar – parecer familiar

108

The Universe

Astronomers say the universe is finite, which is a comforting thought for those people who can't remember where they leave things.

Vocabulary Help

- comforting thought – pensamento confortante
- remember – lembrar
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar

109

At the Post Office

A nice young worker from Australia Post was sorting through her regular envelopes, when she discovered a letter addressed as follows:

GOD

c/o Heaven

Upon opening the envelope, a letter enclosed told of how a little old lady who had never asked for anything in her life, was desperately in need of \$100 and was wondering if God could send her the money.

Well, the young lady was deeply touched and made a collection from her fellow workmates and collected \$90 and sent it off to the old lady.

A few weeks later another letter arrived addressed to God, so the young lady opened it and read “Thank you for the money, God, I deeply appreciate it, however I only received \$90. It must have been those people at the Post Office.”

Vocabulary Help

- wonder – imaginar
- send (send, sent, sent) – enviar
- deeply touched – profundamente tocada
- make a collection – coletar dinheiro
- workmates – companheiros de trabalho
- week – semana
- post office – agência dos correios

110

Anger

When angry, count four; when very angry, swear.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- angry – com raiva, nervoso
- count – contar
- swear – xingar

111

Air Conditioning

A customer was bothering the waiter in a restaurant. First he asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked it be turned down cause he was too cold and so on for about half an hour.

Surprisingly, the waiter was very patient, he walked back and forth and never once got angry. So finally a second customer asked him why he didn't throw out the pest.

'Oh, I don't care', said the waiter with a smile, 'We don't even have an air conditioner.'

Vocabulary Help

- customer – freguês
- bother – incomodar
- waiter – garçom
- turn up – aumentar a intensidade
- turn down – diminuir a intensidade
- too hot – muito quente
- too cold – muito frio
- walk back and forth – andar para lá e para cá
- angry – nervoso, com raiva
- throw out – expulsar
- smile – sorriso

112

Competition

Don't steal. The government hates competition.

Vocabulary Help

- steal (steal, stole, stolen) – roubar
- hate – odiar

113

The Retirement Home

Three old men are sitting on the porch of a retirement home. The first says:

“Fellas, I got real problems. I'm seventy years old. Every morning at seven o'clock I get up and I try to urinate. All day long I try to urinate. They give me all kinds of medicine but nothing helps.”

The second old man says:

“You think you have problems. I'm eighty years old. Every morning at 8 o'clock I get up and try to move my bowels. I try all day long. They give me all kinds of stuff but nothing helps.”

Finally the third old man speaks up:

“Fellas: I'm ninety years old. Every morning at 7:00 sharp I urinate. Every morning at 8:00 I move my bowels. Every morning at 9:00 sharp I wake up.”

Vocabulary Help

- porch – varanda
- retirement home – asilo
- get up – levantar
- try – tentar
- kind – tipo
- medicine – remédio
- to move one's bowels – evacuar
- stuff – coisas
- sharp – em ponto
- wake up – acordar

114

Defects

People are unconditionally guaranteed to be full of defects.

Vocabulary Help

- guaranteed – garantido
- unconditionally – incondicionalmente
- full of defects – cheias de defeitos

115

Authentic Newspaper Headlines

Infertility unlikely to be passed on

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Vocabulary Help

- newspaper – jornal
- headlines – manchetes
- passed on – transmitida
- unlikely – improvável

Teenage girls often have babies fathered by men

THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

Vocabulary Help

- teenage – adolescente
- fathered – gerados, cuja paternidade pertence a

Dirty-Air Cities Far Deadlier Than Clean Ones, Study Shows

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Vocabulary Help

- dirty – sujo
- deadlier – mais mortais (comparativo)

116

Boren 's Laws

- When in charge, ponder.
- When in trouble, delegate.
- When in doubt, mumble.

Vocabulary Help

- in charge – no comando
- ponder – pensar
- trouble – problemas
- doubt – dúvida
- mumble – resmungar, murmurar

117

Brain Transplantation

A man went to the doctor's. The doctor came in and said, "Well, I've got some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that you have an inoperable brain tumor. The good news is our hospital has just been certified to do brain transplants and there has been an accident right out front and a young couple was killed and you can have whichever brain you'd like. The man's brain costs \$100, 000 and the woman's brain costs \$30, 000."

The patient could not help but ask, "Why such a large difference between the male and the female brain?"

THE DOCTOR REPLIED, "THE FEMALE BRAIN IS USED."

Vocabulary Help

- good news – boas notícias
- bad news – más notícias
- brain tumor – tumor cerebral
- young couple – jovem casal
- killed – mortos
- male – macho (homem)
- female – fêmea (mulher)

118

Character

The best index to a person's character is:

- how he treats people who can't do him any good and
- how he treats people who can't fight back.

Vocabulary Help

- do him any good – ser-lhe benéfico
- fight back – revidar

119

Calling the Police

Old lady calls up police department:

“Officer, there is a man exposing himself in the next building”.

Dispatcher: “We’ll be right over, lady.”

(Five minutes later at her apartment.)

Officer: “Which way, lady?”

OL: “This way officer, he’s still shamelessly baring himself.”

Officer: “Where is he, lady? I don’t see no naked man.”

OL: “Oh, you have to look through this telescope.”

Vocabulary Help

- call up – telefonar
- building – prédio
- right over – imediatamente
- which way – onde
- later – mais tarde
- shamelessly – desavergonhadamente
- baring – despindo-se
- naked – nu
- look through – olhar através

120

Can a Stranger Tell if Two People are Married?

“Married people usually look happy to talk to other people.”

EDDIE, AGE 6

“You might have to guess based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.”

DERRICK, AGE 8

Vocabulary Help

- look happy – parecer feliz
- talk – conversar
- guess – adivinhar
- yell – gritar
- same kids – mesmas crianças

121

On Efficient Use of Grey Matter

This guy who went into a brain shop.

A mathematician’s brain was on sale for \$10, 000, and a physicist’s brain was on sale for \$12, 000.

Then he looked at a politician’s brain, which was on sale for \$100, 000.

The guy asked the owner, “How come the politician’s brain is so much more expensive than the scientist’s brain?”

The shop owner replied, “The politician’s brain has never been used.”

Vocabulary Help

- guy – pessoa, cara
- brain shop – loja de cérebros
- sale – à venda
- owner – dono da loja
- how come – como pode

122

Beautiful Diamond Ring

A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas.

A friend of his said, “I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel drive vehicles.”

“She did,” he replied. “But where would I find a fake Jeep?”

Vocabulary Help

- diamond ring – anel de diamantes
- guy – cara, pessoa
- wife – esposa
- Christmas – Natal
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- sporty four-wheel drive vehicles – veículo esportivo
- fake – falso

123

Be Sure to Count Those Instruments

I work in the billing department of a major medical facility. The Surgery Area Manager is in the habit of posting the schedule, along with informational notes, next to the time clock.

Monday, the message read: “PLEASE remember, it is very important to count instruments etc., before closing the patient! Thanks, Kevin.”

Tuesday, the message was: “Notice: We seem to be missing some stethoscopes...”

Vocabulary Help

- billing department – departamento de faturas
- surgery – cirurgia
- manager – gerente
- post – divulgar
- schedule – horário

- miss – dar falta de

124

Better Idiots

“Programming today is a race between software engineers striving to build bigger and better idiot-proof programs, and the Universe trying to produce bigger and better idiots. So far, the Universe is winning.”

RICH COOK

Vocabulary Help

- race – corrida, competição
- between – entre
- strive – lutar
- build (build, built, built) – construir
- idiot-proof – a prova de idiotas
- win – vencer

125

Blind Man

A young woman has just undressed to step into the shower when the doorbell rings. She goes to the door and says, “Who is it?”

“Blind man,” comes the reply.

So, instead of going back to the bathroom for her robe, she opens the door.

“Hmmm... nice body, lady. Where do you want the blinds?”

Vocabulary Help

- undress – tirar a roupa
- step into the shower – entrar no banho
- doorbell – campainha
- Blind man – pode significar ‘homem cego’ ou instalador de cortinas”. A palavra blind” pode significar tanto cortina” como ‘cego”.

- reply – resposta
- go back – retornar
- nice body – bonito corpo
- Where do you want the blinds? – Onde você quer as cortinas?

126

What They Think of Us

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all.

ANN LANDERS

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- worry – preocupar-se
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- care – preocupar
- discover – descobrir

127

Cellular Phones

German scientists dug 50 meters underground and discovered small pieces of copper.

After studying these pieces for a long time, Germany announced that the ancient Germans, 25, 000 years ago, had a nationwide telephone network.

Naturally, the British government was not that easily impressed. They ordered their own scientists to dig even deeper 100 meters down. They found small pieces of glass, and they soon announced that the ancient Brits 35, 000 years ago already had a nationwide fibre net.

Israeli scientists were outraged. They dug 50, 100 and 200 meters underground, but found absolutely nothing. They concluded that the ancient Hebrews, 55, 000 years ago, had cellular telephones.

Vocabulary Help

- dig: (dig, dug, dug) – escavar
- copper – cobre
- telephone network – rede telefônica
- glass – vidro
- outraged – ofendidos

128

Dinner

My wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and asked, “Would you like to say the blessing?”

I wouldn’t know what to say,” she replied. “Just say what you hear Mommy say,” my wife said.

Our daughter bowed her head and said: “Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

Vocabulary Help

- dinner – jantar
- wife – esposa
- daughter – filha
- say the blessing – fazer a oração
- bow – inclinar
- all these people – todas estas pessoas

129

Chicken

Diner: Waiter, look at this chicken, nothing but skin and bones.

Waiter: What else do you want, feathers?

Diner: I can’t eat such a rotten chicken. Call the manager!

Waiter: It’s no use. He won’t eat it either.

Diner: You’ll drive me to my grave!

Waiter: Well, you don’t expect to walk there, do you?

Vocabulary Help

- chicken – galinha
- skin and bones – pele e osso
- feathers – penas
- rotten – ruim, péssimo
- manager – gerente

130

Comparing Notes

Two women were comparing notes on the difficulties of running a small business.

‘I started a new practice last year,’ the first one said. ‘I insist that each of my employees take at least a week off every three months.’

‘Why in the world would you do that?’ the other asked.

She responded, ‘It’s the best way I know of to learn which ones I can do without.’

Vocabulary Help

- run a small business – tocar uma pequena empresa
- new practice – nova prática
- employees – empregados
- take a week off – tirar uma semana de folga
- do without – me virar sem fazer falta

131

Census

The old man was sitting on his porch, when a young man walked up with a pad and pencil in his hand.

‘What are you selling, young man?’ he asked.

‘I’m not selling anything, sir’, the young man replied. ‘I’m the Census Taker.’

‘A what?’ the man asked.

“A Census Taker. We are trying to find out how many people there are in the United States”

“Well,” the man answered, “You’re wasting your time with me, I have no idea.”

Vocabulary Help

- porch – varanda
- pad – prancheta
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- find out – descobrir
- waste your time – perder seu tempo

132

Dawn

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

Vocabulary Help

- dawn – alvorecer

133

Can’t Fly if You’re Gay

An employee of USAir with the last name of Gay boarded a USAir flight with a free travel voucher. Soon after he sat down, someone else came and claimed he had the same seat assignment, so Mr Gay moved down to an empty seat.

Soon after that the airplane began to fill up. The rule with the USAir employee vouchers is that if a paying customer needs your seat, you have to surrender it. So when the flight became completely full and still more needed to get on, a flight attendant went to the original seat of Mr Gay and said to the man now sitting there, “Excuse me, are you Gay?”

The man, somewhat stunned, said, “Well, yes, as a matter of fact I am!”

The flight attendant said, “I’m sorry, but you’ll have to get off the plane.”

At this point Mr Gay, who had been watching all of this, jumped up and said, “Excuse me, you’ve made a mistake – I’m Gay!”

Finally, another man jumped up and said, “Well, hell, I’m gay too! They can’t throw us all off!”

Vocabulary Help

- board – embarcar
- flight – voo
- free travel voucher – bilhete de viagem gratuito
- fill up – encher
- surrender – dar o lugar
- as a matter of fact – de fato
- get off – sair
- thrown us all off – fazer-nos todos sair

134

To hear and to listen

“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.”

EPICETUS

Vocabulary Help

- ear – ouvido
- mouth – boca
- listen – ouvir
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar

135

City Workers

There were two guys working for the city. One would dig a hole, he would dig, dig, dig; the other would come behind him and fill the hole fill, fill, fill. These two men worked furiously. One digging a hole the other filling it up again.

A man was watching from the sidewalk and couldn’t believe how hard these men were working, but couldn’t understand what they were doing. Finally he had to ask them.

He said to the hole digger, “I appreciate how hard you work, but what are you doing? You dig a hole and your partner comes behind you and fills it up again!”

The hole digger replied, “Oh yeah, it must look funny, but the guy who plants the trees is sick today.”

Vocabulary Help

- work for the city – trabalhando para a cidade, empregados municipais
- dig – cavar
- hole – buraco
- fill – encher
- sidewalk – calçada
- hole digger – cavador de buracos
- it must look funny – parece engraçado
- sick – doente

136

Curse

An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard says, “Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you.”

The old man says without hesitation, “I now pronounce you man and wife.”

Vocabulary Help

- curse – maldição
- wizard – sábio, mago
- maybe – talvez
- I now pronounce you man and wife – Eu os declaro marido e mulher

137

Christmas

When I stopped the bus to pick up Chris for preschool, I noticed an older woman hugging him as he left the house.

“Is that your grandmother?” I asked.

“Yes,” Chris said. “She’s come to visit us for Christmas.”

“How nice,” I said. “Where does she live?”

“At the airport,” Chris replied. “Whenever we want her we just go out there and get her.”

Vocabulary Help

- pick up – pegar
- notice – observar
- hug – abraçar
- leave (leave, left, left) – sair
- grandmother – avó
- nice – legal, bacana
- get her – buscá-la

138

Man’s Best Friend

Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside a dog it’s too dark to read.

GROUCHO MARX

Vocabulary Help

- outside – fora
- dog – cachorro
- dark – escuro

139

College Professor

In college, many years ago, I had to wait in a hallway for one of my professors. Across the way, a door opened into a history class. The teacher, a tall bald,

white-haired man, entered, put his books down and looked out over the class.

“As you know, my goal in this class will not be to teach you to think for yourselves but to force you to conform to my way of thinking.”

As one, a hundred pens began scribbling in a hundred notebooks and I could see a look of purest terror creeping over the professor’s face.

“No, no!” he shouted. “That was a JOKE!”

For a moment every face turned up to look at him blankly. Then, as one they all laughed. When I left, he was still staring at them, open-mouthed.

Vocabulary Help

- tall – alto
- bald – careca
- white-haired – de cabelos brancos
- goal – objetivo
- shout – gritar
- joke – brincadeira
- blankly – sem expressão
- open-mouthed – de boca aberta

140

Obsolete Programs

Any program which runs right is obsolete.

Vocabulary Help

- run right – executa corretamente
- obsolete – obsoleto

141

Climbing Turtle

A little turtle begins to climb a tree slowly. After long hours of effort he reaches the top, jumps into the air waving his front legs until reaches heavily into the ground with a hard knock over his shell.

After recovering his consciousness, the turtle starts to climb the tree again, jumps again, and knocks the ground heavily again.

The little turtle insisted again and again after each knock, while a couple of birds sitting at the edge of a branch, looked the turtle with pain. Suddenly the female bird says to the male:

“Hey dear, I think it’s time to tell our little turtle he is adopted.”

Vocabulary Help

- turtle – tartaruga
- climb – subir, escalar
- tree – árvore
- slow – devagar
- effort – esforço
- reach – alcançar
- jump – pular
- waving – abanando
- shell – casco
- edge – beirada
- branch – galho
- time to tell – hora de contar

142

Doing What’s Right

Do what you feel in your heart to be right – for you’ll be criticized anyway. You’ll be damned if you do and damned if you don’t.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELDT

Vocabulary Help

- feel in your heart – sente no coração
- be right – ser certo
- be criticized anyway – ser criticado de qualquer jeito
- damned – amaldiçoado

143

At the Deathbed

A man is holding his wife's hand as she lays on her deathbed.

“Jerry, I, ..., I have something to tell you before I pass on.”

“No, no, dear. Everything is forgiven now. All is well.”

“No, Jerry. I've been carrying this load for years now, and I must tell you I, ..., I've been unfaithful to you. I slept with your best friend Phil. I'm so terribly sorry.”

“Yes, dear, I know. Why do you think I poisoned you?”

Vocabulary Help

- deathbed – leito de morte
- pass on – morrer
- forgive (forgive, forgave, forgiven) – perdoar
- all is well – está tudo bem
- carry – carregar
- load – carga
- unfaithful – infiel
- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- best friend – melhor amigo
- poison – envenenar

144

Dreams

You've got to have a dream if you want to make a dream come true.

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN

Vocabulary Help

- dream – sonho
- make a dream come true – realizar um sonho

145

Customer Relations

A store manager overheard a clerk saying to a customer:

“No, ma’am, we haven’t had any for some weeks now, and it doesn’t look as if we’ll be getting any soon.”

Alarmed by what was being said, the manager rushed over to the customer who was walking out the door and said, “That isn’t true, ma’am. Of course we’ll have some soon. In fact, we placed an order for it a couple of weeks ago.”

Then the manager drew the clerk aside and growled, “Never, never, never say we don’t have something. If we don’t have it, say we ordered it and it’s on its way. Now, what was it she wanted?”

“Rain.”

Vocabulary Help

- customer relations – relações com fregueses, relações públicas
- overhear – entreouvir
- customer – freguês, cliente
- week – semana
- soon – em breve
- rush over to – correr para
- place an order – fazer um pedido
- couple of weeks ago – duas semanas atrás
- growl – rugir, gritar, falar de forma exaltada
- rain – chuva

146

The Stonecutters

Two stonecutters were asked what they were doing.

The first said, “I’m cutting this stone into blocks.”

The second replied, “I’m on a team that’s building a cathedral.”

Vocabulary Help

- stonecutters – escultores de pedras
- blocks – blocos
- reply – responder
- team – equipe, time
- build – construir

147

Darling

The manager of a large office noticed a new man one day and told him to come into his office.

“What is your name?” was the first thing the manager asked the new guy.

“John,” the new guy replied.

The manager scowled, “Look, I don’t know what kind of a namby-pamby place you worked at before, but I don’t call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my employees by their last name only: Smith, Jones, Baker, that’s all I am to be referred to only as Mr Robertson. Now that we got that straight what is your last name?”

The new guy sighed and said, “Darling. My name is John Darling.”

“Okay, John, the next thing I want to tell you is...”

Vocabulary Help

- breed familiarity – gera familiaridade
- breakdown in authority – quebra de autoridade
- sigh – suspirar
- darling – querido

148

Calvin and Hobbes

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.

BILL WATTERSON

Vocabulary Help

- surest sign – sinal mais certo
- elsewhere – em algum outro lugar

149

Dead Goldfish

Little Tim was in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbor peered over the fence. Interested in what the cheeky-faced youngster was up to, he politely asked, “What are you up to there, Tim?”

“My goldfish died,” replied Tim tearfully, without looking up, “and I’ve just buried him”

The neighbor was concerned, “That’s an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn’t it?” Tim patted down the last heap of earth then replied, “That’s because he’s inside your cat.”

Vocabulary Help

- garden – jardim
- hole – buraco
- neighbor – vizinho
- peered over the fence – olhar por cima da cerca
- youngster – jovem
- goldfish – peixinho dourado
- die – morrer
- bury – enterrar
- last heap of earth – último punhado de terra
- inside – dentro

150

The Cat and the Dog

A dog thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me, and take good care of me... They must be Gods!

A cat thinks: Hey, these people I live with feed me, love me, provide me with a nice warm, dry house, pet me, and take good care of me... I must be a God!

Vocabulary Help

- feed me – me alimentam
- warm – aquecida
- dry – seca
- take good care of me – tomam conta de mim
- Gods – deuses

151

Dates

It was a blind date (that she was going to have to “thank” her girlfriend for later), and she’d shown the patience of a saint as he babbled on and on about his hobbies, rock climbing his pet peeves, his driving techniques, and even the standards he used to choose his barber

Finally, he came up for air and said, “But enough about me Let’s talk about you.”

She breathed a sigh of relief.

He went on, “So, what do you think about me?”

Vocabulary Help

- date – encontro
- babbled on and on – falava continuamente
- rock climbing – escalada de rochedos
- came up for air – parou para respirar
- enough about me – chega de falar de mim
- breath a sigh of relief – respirar aliviada
- go on (went on) – continuar

152

Types of People

There are two types of people in this world, good and bad. The good sleep better, but the bad seem to enjoy the waking hours much more.

WOODY ALLEN

Vocabulary Help

- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- seem – parecer
- enjoy – gostar

153

Getting in Line

‘Well,’ snarled the tough old sergeant to the bewildered private. ‘I suppose after you get discharged from the Army, you’ll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and spit on my grave.’

‘Not me, Sarge!’ the private replied. ‘Once I get out of the Army I am never going to stand in line again!’

Vocabulary Help

- tough – duro, severo
- bewildered – surpreso
- private – soldado
- discharge – dar baixa
- army – exército
- wait – esperar
- die – morrer
- spit – cuspir
- grave – sepultura
- reply – responder
- get out – sair
- stand in line – ficar na fila
- again – novamente

154

Fishing

A boy was taking care of his baby sister while his parents went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take her along.

“I’ll never do that again!” he told his mother that evening. “I didn’t catch a thing!”

“Oh, next time I’m sure she’ll be quiet and not scare the fish away,” his mother said.

The boy said, “It wasn’t that. She ate all the bait.”

Vocabulary Help

- take care – tomar conta
- town – cidade
- go fishing – ir pescar
- catch (catch, caught, caught) – pegar (peixe)
- scare – assustar
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer

155

Exercising

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She’s 97 now, and we don’t know where the hell she is.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven’t lost a pound. Apparently, you have to show up.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

Vocabulary Help

- grandmother – avó
- spend (spend, spent, spent) – gastar
- bucks – dólares
- lose (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- pound – unidade de medida de peso
- show up – comparecer

- healthier – mais saudável
- bait – isca

156

Never Use “etc.”

Never use “etc.” – it makes people think there is more where there is not or that there is not space to list it all etc.

Vocabulary Help

- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar

157

Divorce

The judge looked amazedly at the couple in front of him. ‘You’re 97,’ he gasped, ‘Your wife is 95, and you’ve been married for almost 75 years. Why, at this stage of your lives, have you decided that you want a divorce?’

“That woman has driven me crazy long enough, your honor I only married her in the first place because I had to, and I can’t stand it another day.”

“Then why have you waited this long?”

“Well, we knew how a divorce would hurt our kids, so we waited until they died.”

Vocabulary Help

- judge – juiz
- amazedly – assombrado
- couple – casal
- married – casados
- stage – estágio
- lives – vidas
- want – querer
- drive me crazy – me deixa louco
- long enough – o tempo suficiente

- in the first place – em primeiro lugar
- stand it – aguentar isto
- hurt our kids – ferir nossos filhos, ser ruim para nossos filhos
- die – morrer

158

Best Medicine

Dad always thought laughter was the best medicine, which I guess is why several of us died of tuberculosis.

Vocabulary Help

- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- best medicine – melhor remédio
- I guess – eu acho
- several of us – muitos de nós
- die – morrer

159

Exams

A high school teacher was giving a true/false test. He was strolling up and down the aisles surveying the students at work. He came upon one student who was flipping a coin, then writing.

Teacher: What are you doing?

Student: Getting the answers to the test.

The teacher shook his head and walked on. A little while later, when everyone was finished with the test, the teacher noticed the student was again flipping the coin.

Teacher: Now what are you doing?

Student: I'm checking the answers.

Vocabulary Help

- true/false test – teste falso/verdadeiro

- stroll – andar
- aisles – corredores
- survey – pesquisar
- flip a coin – jogar uma moeda para cima (cara ou coroa)
- shake (shake, shook, shaken) – balançar
- notice – notar, observar

160

Committee

A committee is a life form with six or more legs and no brain.

LAZARUS LONG, TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE

Vocabulary Help

- life form – forma de vida
- leg – perna
- brain – cérebro

161

Fit as a Fiddle

“Look at ME!!” boasted the fit old man, pounding a very flat and firm stomach, having just finished 100 sit-ups before a group of young people.

“Fit as a fiddle! And you want to know why?? I don’t smoke, I don’t drink, I don’t stay up late, and I don’t chase after loose women!!”

He smiled at them, teeth white, eyes aglitter, “And tomorrow, YAHOO! I’m going to celebrate my 95th – birthday!!!”

‘Oh, really?’ drawled one of the young onlookers. ‘How?’

Vocabulary Help

- fit as fiddle – expressão que indica que uma pessoa está em forma
- boast – vangloriar
- pound – bater
- flat – plano

- sit-ups – abdominais
- smoke – fumar
- drink – beber
- stay up late – dormir tarde
- loose women – prostitutas
- drawled – falar arrastado
- How? – De que jeito?

162

Idiot-Proof

Make it idiot-proof and someone will make a better idiot.

Vocabulary Help

- idiot-proof – a prova de idiotas

163

The Eternal Optimist

Frank constantly irritated his friends with his eternal optimism. No matter how horrible the circumstance, he would remark, “It could have been worse.” To cure him of this annoying habit, his friends decided to invent a situation so bad, so terrible, that even Frank could find no hope in it.

On the golf course one day, a friend said:

“Frank, did you hear about Tom? He came home last night, found his wife in bed with another man, shot them both, then turned the gun on himself.”

“That’s horrible,” Frank said. “But it could have been worse.”

“How could it have been possibly any worse?” the friend asked.

“Well,” Frank answered, “if it had happened the night before, I’d be dead now.”

Vocabulary Help

- friends – amigos
- remark – observar
- It could have been worse – Poderia ter sido pior

- annoying – irritante
- bad – ruim
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- hope – esperança
- hear (hear, heard, heard) – ouvir
- shoot (shoot, shot, shot) – atirar
- both – ambos
- turned the gun on himself – apontou a arma para si mesmo
- dead – morto

164

Genius and Stupidity

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Vocabulary Help

- between – entre

165

Fun With the Penguins

A Mexican newspaper reports that bored Royal Air Force pilots stationed on the Falkland Islands have devised what they consider a marvelous new game.

Noting that the local penguins are fascinated by airplanes, the pilots search out a beach where the birds are gathered and fly slowly along it at the water's edge.

Perhaps ten thousand penguins turn their heads in unison watching the planes go by, and when the pilots turn around and fly back, the birds turn their heads in the opposite direction, like spectators at a slow-motion tennis match.

Then, the paper reports “The pilots fly out to sea and directly to the penguin colony and overfly it. Heads go up, up, up, and ten thousand penguins fall over gently onto their backs.

AUDOBON SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Vocabulary Help

- newspaper – jornal

- report – relata
- bored – chateado, aborrecido
- devise – inventar, bolar
- marvelous – maravilhoso
- game – jogo
- airplanes – aviões
- gathered – reunidos
- water’s edge – beira da água
- perhaps – talvez
- turn their heads – viram a cabeça
- unison – em conjunto

166

Weirdness

Today’s weirdness is tomorrow’s reason why.

HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Vocabulary Help

- today – hoje
- weirdness – coisa estranha
- tomorrow – amanhã
- reason – razão

167

Give Me Your Money

Late one night, a mugger wearing a ski mask jumped into the path of a well-dressed man and stuck a gun in his ribs.

“Give me your money,” he demanded.

Indignant, the affluent man replied, “You can’t do this – I’m a United States Congressman!”

“In that case,” replied the mugger, “give me MY money.”

Vocabulary Help

- mugger – assaltante
- ski mask – gorro para esquiar
- jump – pular
- path – caminho
- well-dressed – bem vestido
- stick (stick, stuck, stuck) – espetar
- gun – arma, revólver
- rib – costela
- give (give, gave, given) – dar
- demand – exigir
- congressman – congressista

168

Drinking

The patient was lying in bed, still groggy from the effects of the recent operation. His doctor came in, looking very glum.

‘I can’t be sure what’s wrong with you,’ the doctor said. ‘I think it’s the drinking.’

‘Okay,’ the patient said. ‘Can we get an opinion from a doctor who’s sober?’

Vocabulary Help

- lying in bed – na cama
- groggy – atordoado
- glum – sério, transtornado
- sure – certo
- drinking – bebida (alcoólica)
- sober – sóbrio

169

God and Adam

Adam: God I must compliment you on your new creation: women. I mean I couldn't have asked for more. I mean, God, why did you make her so gorgeous?

God: So you would love her my son.

Adam: Yeah, but, God, why did you make her so sexy?

God: So you would love her, my son.

Adam: But why did you give her SUCH a cute smile?

God: So you would love her, my son.

Adam: Then god... WHY OH WHY did you make her SOOO stupid?

God: So she would love you, my son.

Vocabulary Help

- compliment – cumprimentar
- woman – mulher
- gorgeous – linda, maravilhosa
- cute-smile – sorriso lindo

170

Marriage Again

Some men feel that the only thing they owe the woman who marries them is a grudge.

HELEN ROWLAND

Vocabulary Help

- men – homens
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- owe – dever
- woman – mulher
- marry – casar
- grudge – ressentimento

171

Going West

A flashy Mercedes-Benz roared up to the curb where a cute young miss stood waiting for a taxi.

‘Hi,’ said the gentleman at the wheel. ‘I’m going west.’

‘How wonderful,’ came the cool reply. ‘Bring me back an orange.’

Vocabulary Help

- flashy – berrante, impressionante, ofuscante
- curb – beira da calçada
- roared up to – aproximou-se ruidosamente da
- cute – bonita
- stand (stand, stood, stood) – de pé
- at the wheel – na direção
- wonderful – maravilhoso
- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- orange – laranja

172

Journalism

Its failings notwithstanding, there is much to be said in favor of journalism in that by giving us the opinion of the uneducated, it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community.

OSCAR WILDE

Vocabulary Help

- failings – falhas, defeitos
- give (give, gave, given) – dar
- keep (keep, kept, kept) – manter
- in touch – em contato

173

I Locked my Keys in the Car

A blonde walked into a gas station and told the manager, “I locked my keys in my car and I was wondering if you had a coat hanger I could stick through the window and unlock the door.”

“Why, sure,” said the manager, “we have something that works especially for that.”

A couple minutes later, the manager walked outside to see how the blonde was doing. He heard another voice.

“No, no, a little to the left,” said the other blonde inside the car.

Vocabulary Help

- lock – trancar
- blonde – loura
- manager – gerente
- coat hanger – cabide
- stick – enfiar
- unlock – destravar
- inside – dentro

174

Difference of Opinion

It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse-races.

MARK TWAIN, “PUDD’NHEAD WILSON’S CALENDAR”

Vocabulary Help

- think alike – pensar da mesma forma
- difference of opinion – diferença de opinião
- horse-races – corrida de cavalos

175

Haircut

A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut but the barber refused saying, “I cannot accept money from you, for

you are a good man – you do God’s work.” The next morning the barber found a dozen bibles at the door to his shop.

A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment saying, “I cannot accept money from you, for you are a good man – you protect the public.” The next morning the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop.

A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment saying, “I cannot accept money from you, for you are a good man – you serve the justice system.”

The next morning the barber found a dozen more lawyers waiting for a haircut.

Vocabulary Help

- barber – barbeiro
- haircut – corte de cabelo
- priest – padre
- dozen – uma dúzia
- lawyer – advogado

176

Growing Up

Here I am, fifty-eight, and I still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up.

PETER DRUCKER

Vocabulary Help

- still – ainda
- grow up – crescer

177

Good Job

Grandpa and granddaughter were sitting talking when she asked, “Did God make you, Grandpa?”

“Yes, God made me,” the grandfather answered.

A few minutes later, the little girl asked him, “Did God make me too?”

“Yes, He did,” the older man answered.

For a few minutes, the little girl seemed to be studying her grandpa as well as her own reflection in the mirror, while her grandfather wondered what was running through her mind.

At last she spoke up.

‘You know, Grandpa,’ she said, ‘God’s doing a lot better job lately’

Vocabulary Help

- grandpa – avô
- granddaughter – neta
- made you – te criou
- later – mais tarde
- seem – parecer
- wonder – imaginar
- running through her mind – passando pela cabeça dela
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) up – falar
- lately – ultimamente

178

Great Minds

Great minds run in great circles.

Vocabulary Help

- great minds – grandes mentes

179

Grass Eater

One afternoon, a man was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate.

“Why are you eating grass?”, he asked one man.

“We don’t have any money for food”, the poor man replied.

“Oh, come along with me then.”

“But sir, I have a wife with two children!”

“Bring them along! And you, come with us too!”, he said to the other man.

“But sir, I have a wife with six children!”, the second man answered.

“Bring them as well!” They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limo. Once underway, one of the poor fellows says.

“Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you.”

The rich man replied, “No, you don’t understand, the grass at my home is about two meters tall!”

Vocabulary Help

- grass – grama
- food – comida
- wife – esposa
- children – crianças, filhos
- too – também
- task – tarefa
- understand – entender

180

Politics

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.”

GROUCHO MARX

Vocabulary Help

- look for – procurar
- trouble – problemas
- find – encontrar, achar

- apply – usar, aplicar
- wrong – errado

181

Green Side Up

An archaeologist was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a mummy.

After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural-history museum:

‘I’ve just discovered a 3, 000 year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!’, the excited scientist exclaimed. To which the curator replied, ‘Bring him in. We’ll check it out.’

A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. “You were right about the mummy’s age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?”

‘Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, ‘10, 000 Shekels on Goliath’.’”

Vocabulary Help

- dig – cavar
- casket – caixão
- mummy – múmia
- heart failure – ataque do coração
- amazed – surpreso
- death – morte

182

Doctors

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

ERMA BOMBECK

Vocabulary Help

- office plants – plantas do escritório

- die – morrer

183

Hercules and the Wagoner

A CARTER was driving a wagon along a country lane, when the wheels sank down deep into a rut. The rustic driver, stupefied and aghast, stood looking at the wagon, and did nothing but utter loud cries to Hercules to come and help him.

Hercules, it is said, appeared and thus addressed him:

“Put your shoulders to the wheels, my man. Goad on your bullocks, and never more pray to me for help, until you have done your best to help yourself, or depend upon it you will henceforth pray in vain.”

Self-help is the best help.

Vocabulary Help

- carter – carroceiro
- country lane – estrada do campo
- aghast – espantado, perplexo, desapontado
- utter – emitir
- loud – alto
- cry – grito
- shoulder – ombro
- wheel – roda
- goad – incentivar, estimular
- bullock – boi
- do your best – dar o melhor de si

184

Icecream

Ken: These icecream are too expensive!

John: Stop complaining and pay with a smile.

Ken: I wish I could but the man insists on cash!

Vocabulary Help

- icecream – sorvete
- complain – reclamar
- pay with a smile – pagar sorrindo
- cash – dinheiro

185

I Want my Money

Larry's barn burned down and his wife, Susan, called the insurance company.

Susan spoke to the insurance agent and said, "We had that barn insured for fifty thousand, and I want my money."

The agent replied, "Whoa there, just a minute. Insurance doesn't work quite like that. An independent adjuster will assess the value of what was insured, and then we'll provide you with a new barn of similar worth"

There was a long pause, and then Susan replied, "If that's how it works then I want to cancel the life insurance policy on my husband."

Vocabulary Help

- barn – celeiro
- burn – queimar
- insurance company – companhia de seguros
- speak (speak, spoke, spoke) – falar, conversar
- reply – responder
- assess – avaliar
- worth – valor
- policy – apólice

186

Jobs

Never continue in a job you don't enjoy. If you're happy in what you're doing,

you'll like yourself, you'll have inner peace. And if you have that, along with physical health, you will have had more success than you could possibly have imagined.

RODAN OF ALEXANDRIA

Vocabulary Help

- job – emprego
- enjoy – gostar
- happy – feliz
- yourself – você mesmo
- inner – interna
- peace – paz
- health – saúde

187

Chicago Museum of Natural History

Some tourists in the Chicago Museum of Natural History are marveling at the dinosaur bones.

One of them asks the guard: “Can you tell me how old the dinosaur bones are?”

The guard replies, “They are three million, four years, and six months old.”

“That’s an awfully exact number”, says the tourist. “How do you know their age so precisely?”

The guard answers, “Well, the dinosaur bones were three million years old when I started working here, and that was four and a half years ago.”

Vocabulary Help

- marvel – admirar
- bones – ossos
- awfully exact – extremamente exato
- age – idade

188

Critics

A critic is a bundle of biases held loosely together by a sense of taste.

WHITNEY BALLIETT

Vocabulary Help

- bundle – monte
- biases – preconceitos, crenças tendenciosas
- hold (hold, held, held) – segurar
- loosely – de maneira não muito firme
- together – junto
- sense of taste – senso de gosto

189

Identical Twins

Dan married one of a pair of identical twins. Less than a year later he was in court filing for a divorce “ Tell the court why you want a divorce,” the judge said.

“Well, Your Honor,” Dan started, “every once in a while my sister-in-law would come over for a visit, and because she and my wife are identical, sometimes I’d end up making love to her by mistake.”

“Surely there must be some difference between the two women,” the judge said.

“Exactly, Your Honor. That’s why I want the divorce.”

Vocabulary Help

- marry – casar
- twin – gêmeo
- court – tribunal
- every once in a while – de vez em quando
- sister-in-law – cunhada
- make love – fazer amor
- mistake – engano

190

God and the Mortal

Mortal: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Mortal: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Mortal: Can I have a penny?

God: Just a second...

Vocabulary Help

- penny – centavo

191

The Meaning of Dreams

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, “I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine’s day. What do you think it means?”

“You’ll know tonight.” he said.

That evening, the man came home with a package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it – to find a book entitled “The meaning of dreams”

Vocabulary Help

- wake up – acordar
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- husband – marido
- dream – sonhar
- give (give, gave, given) – dar
- pearl necklace – colar de pérolas
- Valentine’s day – dia dos namorados
- wife – esposa
- delighted – deliciada, encantada
- “The meaning of dreams” – Interpretação dos sonhos

192

Diet

The cardiologist's diet: if it tastes good, spit it out!

Vocabulary Help

- taste good – tem gosto bom
- spit it out – cuspir

193

Just With Words

The other day I had the opportunity to drop by my department head's office. He's a friendly guy and on the rare opportunities that I have to pay him a visit, we have had enjoyable conversations. While I was in his office yesterday I asked him "Sir, what is the secret of your success?"

He said "Two words."

"And, sir, what are they?"

"Right decisions."

"But how do you make right decisions?"

"One word," he responded.

"And, sir, what is that?"

"Experience."

"And how do you get experience?"

"Two words."

"And, sir, what are they?"

"Wrong decisions."

Vocabulary Help

- drop by – visitar, passar por
- guy – pessoa
- friendly – amigável, gentil
- enjoyable – agradável

194

Inferior Men

I married beneath me. All women do.

LADY NANCY ASTOR

Vocabulary Help

- marry – casar
- beneath – abaixo
- women – mulheres

195

Marriage Problems

A ninety-year-old man is sitting on a park bench, sobbing, when a young man walks by and asks him what's wrong. Through his tears the old man answers, "I'm in love with a twenty-five-year-old woman."

"What's wrong with that?" asks the young man.

Between the sobs and sniffles, he answers, "You can't understand. Every morning before she goes to work, we make love. At lunchtime she comes home and we make love again, and then she makes my favorite meal. In the afternoon, when she gets a break, she rushes home and we have more sex the best an old man could want. And then at suppertime, and all night long we make love." He breaks down, no longer able to speak.

The young man puts his arm around him. "I don't understand. It sounds like you have a perfect relationship. Why are you crying?"

The old man answers, again through his tears, "I forgot where I live."

Vocabulary Help

- park bench – banco de parque
- sobbing – soluçando
- tears – lágrimas
- meal – refeição
- relationship – relação

- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer

196

Nostalgia

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Vocabulary Help

- remember – lembrar

197

Jigsaw

Paddy gets a phone call from Murphy.

‘Paddy,’ says Murphy, ‘I’ve got a problem.’

‘What’s the matter?’ replies Paddy.

‘I’ve bought a jigsaw and it’s too hard, none of the pieces fit together and I can’t find any edges.’

‘What’s the picture of?’ asks Paddy.

‘It’s of a big cockerel,’ Murphy replies.

Paddy says, ‘Alright, Murphy, I’ll come over and have a look.’ He gets to Murphy’s house and Murphy opens the door.

‘Oh, thanks for coming, Paddy.’ He leads Paddy into the kitchen and shows him the jigsaw on the kitchen table.

Paddy looks at the jigsaw, then turns to Murphy and says, ‘Murphy you idiot, put the Cornflakes back in the packet.’

Vocabulary Help

- phone call – telefonema
- matter – problema
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- jigsaw – quebra-cabeças
- hard – difícil
- fit – encaixar

- edges – bordas
- have a look – olhar

198

Optimism

An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.

Vocabulary Help

- best possible world – o melhor mundo possível
- fear – temer

199

New Concepts

A student comes to a young professor's office hours. She glances down the hall, closes his door, kneels pleadingly.

"I would do anything to pass this exam." She leans closer to him, flips back her hair, gazes meaningfully into his eyes.

"I mean..." she whispers, "...I would do...anything."

He returns her gaze. "Anything?"

"Anything."

His voice softens. "Anything??"

"Anything."

His voice turns to a whisper. "Would you...study?"

Vocabulary Help

- glance – olhar rapidamente
- plead – implorar
- lean – inclinar
- flip back her hair – por o cabelo para trás
- gaze – encarar
- meaningfully – significativamente, insinuosamente

- eyes – olhos
- I mean – quero dizer
- soften – amaciar
- whisper – sussurro

200

I Am Not Going Out

I'd love to go out with you, but the last time I went out, I never came back.

Vocabulary Help

- go out – sair
- last – último
- time – vez
- go out (go, went, gone) – sair
- never – nunca
- come back – voltar

201

Missing the Point

A guy in a bar leans over to the guy next to him and says, “Wanna hear a Polish joke?”

The guy next to him replies, “Well, before you tell that joke, you should know something I’m 1.80 tall, 100 kg, and I’m Polish. The guy sitting next to me is 1.90 tall, weighs 110kg, and he’s Polish. The fella next to him is 1.95 tall, weighs 125 kg, and he’s Polish. Now, you still wanna tell that joke?”

The first guy says, “Nah, I don’t want to have to explain it three times”

Vocabulary Help

- lean over – inclinar-se
- guy – pessoa
- next to him – próximo a ele
- wanna – Do you want to

- joke – piada
- reply – responder
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- tall – altura
- weigh – pesar
- fella – fellow (pessoa)

202

Happiness

Remember that happiness is a way of travel, not a destination.

ROY GOODMAN

Vocabulary Help

- remember – lembrar
- happiness – felicidade
- way of travel – forma de viajar

203

Lovers

Bernie was invited to his friend's home for dinner. Morris, the host preceded every request to his wife by endearing terms, calling her Honey My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin etc.

Bernie looked at Morris and remarked, "That is really nice, that after all these years that you have been married you keep calling your wife those pet names."

Morris hung his head and whispered, "To tell the truth, I forgot her name three years ago."

Vocabulary Help

- invite – convidar
- dinner – jantar
- request – pedido
- wife – esposa

- endearing terms – expressões carinhosas
- remark – observar
- hung his head – abaixou a cabeça
- whisper – sussurrar
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, falar
- truth – verdade
- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer

204

Promises

Teacher; Didn't you promise to behave?

Little Johnny: Yes, sir.

Teacher: And didn't I promise to punish you if you didn't?

Little Johnny: Yes, sir, but since I broke my promise, you didn't have to keep yours.

Vocabulary Help

- promise – prometer, promessa
- punish – punir
- break (break, broke, broken) – quebrar
- keep yours – manter a sua (promessa)

205

Illegal Computing

My sister just purchased her first computer. About the second night of toying around with it she was introduced to the infamous Windows “The application has attempted to execute an illegal instruction.”

She quickly pulled the power cord out of the wall. She didn't want the police showing up.

I am not making this up. Really.

Vocabulary Help

- purchase – comprar
- toying around – brincar
- infamous – infame
- quickly – rapidamente
- power cord – cabo de força
- wall – parede
- show up – aparecer
- make up – inventar

206

Normal Times

Normal times may possibly be over forever.

Vocabulary Help

- be over – acabados

207

Dinner Guests

Little Johnny and his family lived in the country, and as a result seldom had guests. He was eager to help his mother after his father appeared with two dinner guests from the office.

When the dinner was nearly over, Little Johnny went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of apple pie, giving it to his father, who passed it to a guest.

Little Johnny came in with a second piece of pie and gave it to his father, who again gave it to a guest.

This was too much for Little Johnny, who said:

“It’s no use, Dad. The pieces are all the same size.”

Vocabulary Help

- little Johnny – Joãozinho
- helping out – ajudando

- country – campo
- seldom – raramente
- guest – visita, hóspede
- eager – ansioso
- nearly over – quase terminado
- kitchen – cozinha
- proudly – orgulhosamente
- apple pie – torta de maçã
- It's no use – não adianta
- same size – mesmo tamanho

208

How to Treat People

If you treat people right they will treat you right – ninety percent of the time.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Vocabulary Help

- treat – tratar
- right – corretamente

209

The Fawn and His Mother

A YOUNG FAWN once said to his Mother, “You are larger than a dog, and swifter, and more used to running, and you have your horns as a defense; why, then, O Mother! do the hounds frighten you so? She smiled, and said:

“I know full well, my son, that all you say is true. I have the advantages you mention, but when I hear even the bark of a single dog I feel ready to faint, and fly away as fast as I can.”

No arguments will give courage to the coward.

Vocabulary Help

- say – dizer

- mother – mãe
- swifter – mais ágil, veloz
- used to running – acostumada a correr
- horn – chifre
- hounds – cães de caça, sabujos
- frighten – assustar
- hear (heard, heard, heard) – ouvir
- bark – latido
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- faint – desmaiar
- fly away – fugir rápido (voar)
- fawn – cervo

210

Success

A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do.

BOB DYLAN

Vocabulary Help

- get up – levantar
- in between – neste meio tempo
- singer – cantor
- songwriter – compositor

211

Telephone Joke

“Hello, this is your local Zoo speaking. Do you like animals? We are experiencing severe problems with hot water. Would you be so kind as to allow us to bring our elephants over to your bathroom for a shower?”

The most common response: “Well, sure, but my neighbour’s bathroom is bigger and better equipped to handle elephants.”

Vocabulary Help

- speak (speak, spoke, spoke) – falar
- hot – quente
- water – água
- allow – permitir
- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- bathroom – banheiro
- shower – banho de chuveiro
- sure – certamente
- neighbour – vizinho
- handle – lidar, tratar

212

Forgiveness

A person forgives only when they are in the wrong.

Vocabulary Help

- forgive (forgive, forgave, forgiven) – perdoar
- in the wrong – errado

213

Late for the Wedding

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street.

‘But, officer,’ the man began, ‘I can explain ...’

‘Just be quiet,’ snapped the officer. ‘I’m going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back.’

‘‘But, officer, I just wanted to say ...’

‘‘And I said to keep quiet! You’re going to jail!’’ A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said:

‘‘Lucky for you that the chief’s at his daughter’s wedding. He’ll be in a good

mood when he gets back.”

‘Don’t count on it,’ answered the fellow in the cell. ‘I’m the groom.’”

Vocabulary Help

- town – cidade
- cool – esfriar
- heel – calcanhar
- jail – cadeia
- lucky for you – sorte sua
- daughter – filha
- wedding – casamento
- good mood – bom humor
- don’t count on it – não conte com isto
- groom – noivo

214

Plans for Life

Life is what happens while you are making other plans.

Vocabulary Help

- life – vida
- happen – acontecer
- while – enquanto
- making other plans – fazendo outros planos

215

Six Cups

A blonde grabbed a large thermos and hurried to a nearby coffee shop. She held up the thermos and the coffee shop worker quickly came over to take her order.

“Is this big enough to hold six cups of coffee?” the blonde asked.

The coffee shop worker looked at the thermos, hesitated a few seconds and

replied, “Yeah, it looks like about six cups to me.”

‘Oh, good!’ the blonde sighed in relief. ‘Then give me two regular, two black, and two decaf.’”

Vocabulary Help

- blonde – loura
- grab – agarrar
- thermos – garrafa térmica
- hurry(ied) – correr, ir depressa
- hold (hold, held, held) – segurar
- quickly – rapidamente
- come (come, came, came) over – veio
- take her order – receber o pedido
- enough – suficiente
- looks like – parece
- sigh in relief – respirar aliviada
- decaf(feinated) – descafeinado

216

Philosophy

The ability to bear with calmness the misfortunes of our friends.

A route of many roads leading from nowhere to nothing.

Vocabulary Help

- bear – suportar
- calmness – calma
- misfortunes – calamidades
- friends – amigos
- route – rota
- lead – levar
- nowhere – lugar nenhum
- nothing – nada

217

Risky Business

A salesman rang the bell at a suburban home, and was greeted by a nine-year-old boy puffing on a long black cigar.

Hiding his amazement, the salesman asked the boy, “Is your mother home?”

The boy took the cigar out of his mouth, flicked ashes on the carpet and asked, “What do you think?”

Vocabulary Help

- salesman – vendedor
- greeted – recebido
- puffing – tragando
- cigar – charuto
- amazement – surpresa, espanto
- take out (take, took, taken) – tirar
- mouth – boca
- ashes – cinzas

218

The Barber

Almost bald man: Why do you always charge me double? You ought to charge me cheaper for I don't have much hair!

Barber: No, no! We don't charge for cutting the hair! We charge for having to search for it!

Vocabulary Help

- almost bald man – homem quase careca
- charge double – cobrar o dobro
- ought to – deveria
- cheaper – mais barato
- charge for – cobrar por
- search for it – procurar por ele

219

Adam's Ribs

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side I think I'm going to have a wife."

Vocabulary Help

- Sunday School – escola dominical
- human beings – seres humanos
- kindergarten – jardim de infância
- intent – atento
- rib – costela

220

Imbeciles and Rogues

I prefer rogues to imbeciles because they sometimes take a rest.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS, FILS

Vocabulary Help

- rogues – patife, vagabundo
- take a rest – descansar

221

The Seagull

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to a place the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

“Daddy, what happened to him?” the son asked.

“He died and went to Heaven,” the dad replied.

The boy thought a moment as he and his father stood looking at the seagull. Finally the son said, “Why did God throw him back down?”

Vocabulary Help

- father – pai
- beach – praia
- children – filhos
- run (run, ran, ran) – correr
- grab – agarrar
- sand – areia
- happen – acontecer
- die – morrer
- heaven – céu, paraíso
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- son – filho
- seagull – gaivota
- throw – jogar, arremessar

222

In the Long Run

In the long run we are all dead.

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

Vocabulary Help

- in the long run – a longo prazo
- dead – morto

223

Swimming Naked

A good looking chick walked into an orchard and found a lovely pool in it, and

decided to swim. She looked around, didn't see anyone, and undressed. Just as she was about to dive in, the watchman appeared from behind the bush where he was hiding all along and told her that swimming was prohibited.

“You could have told me that before I undressed!” she scolded him.

“Hey! Only swimming is prohibited, undressing isn't,” he replied.

Vocabulary Help

- good looking – bonita, de boa aparência
- chick – garota
- orchard – pomar
- find (find, found, found) – achar, encontrar
- pool – lago, piscina
- swim (swim, swam, swum) – nadar
- look around – olhar em volta
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- undress – tirar a roupa
- dive in – mergulhar
- watchman – vigia
- bush – moita
- hide (hide, hid, hidden) – esconder
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer
- scold – repreender

224

Men's Opinions

No man can have a reasonable opinion of women until he has long lost interest in hair restorers.

AUSTIN O'MALLEY

Vocabulary Help

- reasonable – razoável
- women – mulheres
- until – até que

- has long lost interest – há muito tempo perdeu o interesse
- hair – cabelo

225

Letters to My Son

Every man who has reached even his intellectual teens begins to suspect that life is no farce; that it is not genteel comedy even; that it flowers and fructifies on the contrary out of the profoundest tragic depths of the essential death in which its subject's roots are plunged. The natural inheritance of everyone who is capable of spiritual life is an unsubdued forest where the wolf howls and the obscene bird of night chatters.

HENRY JAMES SR., WRITING TO HIS SONS HENRY AND WILLIAM

Vocabulary Help

- teens – adolescência
- farce – farsa
- depths – profundezas
- death – morte
- plunged – imersos
- inheritance – herança
- wolf – lobo
- howl – uivar

226

In the Morning

You're getting old when you wake up with that morning-after feeling and you didn't do anything the night before.

Vocabulary Help

- getting old – ficando velho
- wake up – acordar
- morning-after feeling – sentindo-se mal de manhã devido a excessos na noite anterior

227

The Traveler and His Dog

A TRAVELER about to set out on a journey saw his Dog stand at the door stretching himself.

He asked him sharply: ‘Why do you stand there gaping? Everything is ready but you, so come with me instantly. The Dog, wagging his tail, replied: ‘O, master! I am quite ready; it is you for whom I am waiting.’”

The loiterer often blames delay on his moSTOP STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP active friend.

Vocabulary Help

- traveler – viajante
- set out on a journey – partir em viagem
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- stretch – espreguiçar-se
- gaping – boca aberta
- everything is ready but you – tudo está pronto menos você
- wag – balançar
- tail – cauda
- loiterer – vagabundo, ocioso
- blame – culpar
- delay – atraso

228

Greed

The main thing is the play itself. I swear that greed for money has nothing to do with it, although heaven knows I am sorely in need of money.

FEODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

Vocabulary Help

- play – diversão
- swear – prometer, jurar

- greed – ganância
- nothing to do with it – nada a ver com isto
- although – embora
- heaven knows – os céus sabem
- sorely – desesperadamente
- in need of money – precisando de dinheiro

229

Hot Phone

A blonde with two red ears went to her doctor. The doctor asked her what had happened to her ears and she answered.

“I was ironing a shirt and the phone rang – but instead of picking up the phone I accidentally picked up the iron and stuck it to my ear.”

“Oh, Dear!” the doctor exclaimed in disbelief. “But, what happened to your other ear?”

“The jerk called back!”

Vocabulary Help

- red ears – orelhas vermelhas
- ironing a shirt – passando uma camisa a ferro
- ring (ring, rang, rang) – tocar
- instead of – ao invés de
- pick up – pegar
- disbelief – incredulidade
- jerk – idiota, imbecil

230

Lost Objects

Objects are lost only because people look where they are not rather than where they are.

Vocabulary Help

- lose (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- only – apenas
- because – porque
- people – pessoas
- look – procurar
- rather than – ao invés de

231

Making \$\$\$\$ Fast

Are you interested in making \$\$\$\$ fast?

Here's an incredibly simple way to do it, and there is nothing to buy, no investment to make, no money to lose!

Try it now!

Follow this simple procedure:

- Hold down the shift key.
- Hit the 4 key four times fast.

Vocabulary Help

- fast – rápido
- way – maneira
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- money – dinheiro
- lose (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- hold down – pressionar
- shift key – tecla SHIFT (do computador)
- 4 key – tecla 4
- four times – quatro vezes

232

Number of Words

A husband, proving to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a

study which indicated that men use on the average only 15,000 words a day, whereas women use 30,000 words a day.

She thought about this for a while and then told her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say.

Vocabulary Help

- husband – marido
- wife – esposa
- talk – falar
- average – média
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, falar
- twice as many – duas vezes mais
- say (say, said, said) – dizer

233

One Liners

Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad check.

It has recently been discovered that research causes cancer in rats.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell and make you feel happy to be on your way.

Vocabulary Help

- known – conhecido
- travel – viajar
- faster – mais rápido que
- bad check – cheque sem fundos
- research – pesquisa
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer
- hell – inferno
- on your way – a caminho

234

On the Scale

I noticed my husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach.

Thinking he was trying to weigh less with this maneuver, I commented, “I don’t think that is going to help.”

‘Sure it does,’ he said. ‘It’s the only way I can see the numbers...’

Vocabulary Help

- husband – marido
- bathroom scale – balança do banheiro
- sucking in his stomach – encolhendo a barriga
- maneuver – manobra
- only way – única maneira

235

Thoughts on Marriage

Getting married is very much like going to a continental restaurant with friends. You order what you want, then, when you see what the other person has, you wish you had ordered that.

At the cocktail party, one woman said to another, ‘Aren’t you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?’ The other replied, ‘Yes I am – I married the wrong man.’

When a man opens the car door for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or the wife.

Vocabulary Help

- wish – desejar
- order – pedir
- wear – usar
- wedding ring – anel de casamento
- wrong – errado
- finger – dedo
- wife – esposa

236

No Fun!

The boss returned from lunch in a good mood and called the whole staff in to listen to a couple of jokes he had picked up.

Everybody but one girl laughed uproariously.

‘What’s the matter?’ grumbled the boss ‘Haven’t you got a sense of humor?’

‘I don’t have to laugh,’ she said ‘I’m leaving Friday.’

Vocabulary Help

- boss – chefe, patrão
- good mood – bom humor
- staff – corpo de funcionários
- jokes – piadas
- picked up – aprendido, ouvido
- laugh – rir
- uproariously – barulhentemente

237

The Senior Driver

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife’s voice urgently warning him:

“Herman, I just heard on the news that there’s a car going the wrong way on 280. Please be careful!”

‘Hell,’ said Herman, ‘It’s not just one car. It’s hundreds of them!’

Vocabulary Help

- senior citizen – senhor de idade
- freeway – autoestrada
- ring (ring, rang, rung) – tocar
- news – noticiário
- wrong way – contramão

- be careful – seja cuidadoso
- hundreds – centenas

238

A Long Journey

A journey of a thousand miles starts under one's feet.

Lao Tsu

Vocabulary Help

- thousand – mil
- miles – milhas
- under – sob
- feet (foot) – pés (pé)

239

Demoralization

The boss was complaining in our staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went to a local sign shop and bought a small sign that read:

“I'm the Boss!”

He then taped it to his office door.

Later that day, when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said:

“Your wife called, she wants her sign back!”

Vocabulary Help

- boss – chefe
- complain – reclamar
- staff meeting – reunião dos funcionários
- get any respect – não ser respeitado
- sign shop – loja onde se vendem pôsteres, avisos, painéis
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar

- sign – aviso
- tape a note – colar um aviso
- wife – esposa

240

Loaded Gun

“Remember kids, if there’s a loaded gun in the room, be sure that you’re the one holding it.”

Vocabulary Help

- remember – lembrar
- kids – crianças
- loaded gun – arma carregada
- be sure – certifique-se
- hold (hold, held, held) – segurar

241

The Eskimo

A tourist goes to the pole, and meets an Eskimo.

“During the summer you don’t have any nights, and during the winter you don’t have any days. What do you do during that endless summer day?” he asks.

“We go fishing, and make love to our women,” the Eskimo replies. The tourist thinks a while, and asks another question:

“Then, what do you do during that endless winter night?”

Eskimo grins:

“We don’t go fishing..”

Vocabulary Help

- pole – polo
- summer – verão
- winter – inverno

- endless – sem fim
- go fishing – pescar
- make love – fazer amor

242

The Light Bulb

How many pessimists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

- None, it's just a waste of time since the new one probably won't work either.
- None, why bother, the new one will eventually burn out as well.
- None, the burned out one is probably stuck and can't be removed.

Vocabulary Help

- does it take – são necessários
- screw – atarrachar
- light bulb – lâmpada
- waste of time – perda de tempo
- burned out – queimada
- stuck – agarrada, presa

243

Jewish Holiday

Adolf Hitler was very keen on the occult, so he went to a fortune teller hoping that the woman could tell him how long he would live.

After careful charting, she said, "I can't predict the exact date of your death, but I do know that you will die on a Jewish holiday."

"And which holiday will this be?" he asked.

"It does not matter," she replied. "Any day that you die will be a Jewish holiday."

Vocabulary Help

- keen – adepto

- go (go, went, gone) – ir
- fortune teller – vidente
- death – morte
- die – morrer
- Jewish holiday – feriado judeu
- it does not matter – não importa

244

Uniqueness

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

Vocabulary Help

- remember – lembrar
- unique – único
- everyone else – como todos os outros

245

Declaration of Independence

A teacher was quizzing her students. “Johnny, who signed the Declaration of Independence?”

He said, “Damn if I know.”

She was a little put out by his swearing, so she told him to go home and to bring his father with him when he came back.

Next day, the father came with his son, and sat in the back of the room to observe.

She started back in on her quiz and finally got back to the boy.

“Now, Johnny, I’ll ask you again. Who signed the Declaration of Independence?”

“Well, hell, teacher,” Johnny said, “I told you I didn’t know.”

The father jumped up in the back, pointed a stern finger at his son and said, “Johnny, if you signed that damn thing, hell, you damn well better admit it!”

Vocabulary Help

- quizz – questionário
- damn if I know – maldito seja eu se souber
- put out – desapontada
- swearing – uso de palavrado impróprio
- hell – inferno
- jump – pular
- stern – severo
- finger – dedo

246

Imagination

Love is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

H. L. MENCKEN

Vocabulary Help

- triumph – triunfo

247

Mule for Rental

Deep in the Tennessee hills, a farmer's mule kicked his mother-in-law to death. An enormous crowd of men turned out for the funeral. The minister examining the crowd outside the church, commented to a farmer friend:

“This old lady must have been mighty popular. Just look how many people left their work to come to her funeral.”

“They're not here for the funeral They're here to buy the mule.”

Vocabulary Help

- deep – fundo
- hills – colinas
- mule – mula
- kick – coice (chutar)

- mother-in-law – sogra
- death – morte
- crowd – multidão
- turned out – apareceram
- outside – do lado de fora
- church – igreja
- farmer – fazendeiro
- friend – amigo
- mighty popular – bastante popular
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar

248

Learning to Swim

My mom said she learned how to swim. Someone took her out in the lake and threw her off the boat. That’s how she learned how to swim.

I said, “Mom, they weren’t trying to teach you how to swim.”

Vocabulary Help

- mom (mother) – mãe
- learn (learn, learnt, learnt) – aprender
- lake – lago
- throw (throw, threw, thrown) her off – empurrar para fora (do barco)

249

Mistakes

“Is it proper for a man to profit from the mistakes of another?” a parishioner asked his minister.

“Definitely not,” was the preacher’s answer.

“Are you absolutely certain?”

“Yes, my son, absolutely.”

“In that case, I wonder if you would mind returning that \$25 I gave you after my wedding last year?”

Vocabulary Help

- proper – correto, apropriado
- profit – lucrar
- mistake – erro
- preacher – pregador, pastor
- son – filho
- would you mind – você se importaria
- return – devolver
- wedding – casamento

250

Cheating

Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at Don's paper.

Little Johnny: I hope you didn't either.

Vocabulary Help

- hope – esperar
- either – também

251

Number 54

A blonde was visiting Washington, DC, for the first time. She wanted to see the Capitol building. Unfortunately, she couldn't find it, so she asked a police officer for directions.

“Excuse me officer, how do I get to the Capitol building?”

The officer replied, “Wait here at this bus stop for the number 54 bus. It'll take you right there.”

She thanked the officer and he drives off. Three hours later the police officer returned to the same area and, sure enough, the blonde is still waiting at the

same bus stop.

The officer got out of his car and said, “Excuse me, but to get to the Capitol building I said to wait here for the number 54 bus. That was three hours ago. Why are you still waiting?”

The blonde replied, “Don’t worry, officer, it won’t be long now. The 45th bus just went by!”

Vocabulary Help

- blonde – loura
- directions – instruções
- sure enough – certamente
- get out – sair
- worry – preocupar
- go (go, went, gone) by – passar

252

Geography Lesson

Teacher: Little Johnny, go to the map and find North America.

Little Johnny: Here it is!

Teacher: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?

Class: Little Johnny!

Vocabulary Help

- find (find, found, found) – encontrar, achar
- discover – descobrir

253

My Father is The Greatest

These three boys are in the schoolyard bragging of how great their fathers are.

The first one says: “Well, my father runs the fastest. He can fire an arrow, and start to run, I tell you, he gets there before the arrow.”

The second one says: “Ha! You think that’s fast! My father is a hunter He can

shoot his gun and be there before the bullet.”

The third one listens to the other two and shakes his head. He then says: “You two know nothing about fast. My father is a civil servant. He stops working at 4:30 and he is home by 3:45!”

Vocabulary Help

- schoolyard – pátio da escola
- great – fantástico, fabuloso
- run – correr
- fast – rápido
- fire an arrow – disparar uma flecha
- hunter – caçador
- bullet – bala
- shake – balançar
- civil servant – funcionário público

254

Love

Love is the process of my leading you gently back to yourself.

SAINT EXUPERY

Vocabulary Help

- lead – conduzir
- gently – gentilmente
- back to yourself – de volta a você mesmo

255

Nothing on From the Waist Down

A man came walking up to his grandparent’s house when he noticed his grandfather sitting on the porch, in a rocking chair, with nothing on from the waist down.

“Grandpa, what are you doing?” he exclaimed. The old man looked off in the distance without answering.

“Grandpa, what are you doing sitting out here with nothing on below the waist?” he asked again.

The old man slowly looked at him and said, “Well, last week I sat out here with no shirt on, and I got a stiff neck. This is your grandma’s idea.”

Vocabulary Help

- waist – cintura
- grandfather – avô
- porch – varanda
- rocking chair – cadeira de balanço
- waist down – da cintura para baixo
- slowly – lentamente
- week – semana
- shirt – camisa
- stiff neck – torcicolo
- grandma’s idea – ideia da sua avó

256

Insanity

Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your kids.

Vocabulary Help

- insanity – insanidade
- get it from – pegar de
- kids – filhos, crianças

257

Pessimism

A pessimist is an optimist with experience.

A Man who looks for a pink slip before the money in his pay envelope.

A pessimist is someone who feels bad when he feels good, for fear he’ll feel even worse when he feels better.

An optimist invented the jet; a pessimist, the ejection seat.

An optimist laughs to forget; a pessimist can't remember the last time he laughed.

Blessed are the pessimists for they have already invested in a tape backup.

Vocabulary Help

- ejection seat – assento ejetável
- laugh – rir
- last time – última vez
- forget – esquecer
- blessed – abençoados
- tape backup – backup em fita
- pink slip – aviso de demissão
- pay envelope – envelope contendo o salário
- for fear – de medo que
- worse – pior
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- better – melhor

258

I Is

Teacher: Johnny, give me a sentence starting with “I”.

Little Johnny: I is...

Teacher: No, Little Johnny. Always say “I am”.

Little Johnny: All right. “I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.”

Vocabulary Help

- all right – está certo

259

Parrots

A lady walks in to a pet store and asks the salesman if he has any parrots for

sale. He replies that he has a very special parrot in back.

They go to the back of the store and see a beautiful bird with a string around each leg. The salesman explains that if she pulls the string on the left leg, the bird sings ‘Sunshine on My Shoulder,’ and if she pulls the right string, it sings ‘Raindrops Keep Fallin’ on my Head.’

The lady asks what happens if she pulls both strings, and the bird yells out, “Don’t! I will fall on my butt, lady!!”

Vocabulary Help

- pet store – loja de animais
- salesman – vendedor
- parrot – papagaio
- string – barbante, corda
- leg – perna
- pull – puxar
- sing – cantar
- yell – gritar
- fall – cair
- butt – traseiro

260

Middle Age

Middle age is when work is a lot less fun and fun a lot more work.

Vocabulary Help

- middle age – meia idade
- lot less fun – muito menos divertido

261

Quite a few

A drunk is driving through the city and his car is weaving violently all over the road. An Irish cop pulls him over.

‘So,’ says the cop to the driver, ‘where have you been?’

‘I’ve been to the pub,’ slurs the drunk. Well,’ says the cop, ‘it looks like you’ve had quite a few.’

‘I did all right,’ the drunk says with a smile.

‘Did you know,’ says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms ‘that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?’

‘Oh, thank heavens,’ sighs the drunk. ‘For a minute there, I thought I’d gone deaf.’

Vocabulary Help

- drunk – bêbado
- weave – andar aos trancos
- cop – policial
- pull over – mandar parar, encostar
- smile – sorriso
- fold his arms – cruzar os braços
- wife – esposa
- fall out – cair
- thank heavens – graças aos céus
- sigh – suspirar
- deaf – surdo

262

Of Life and Frogs

‘If you have to swallow a frog, try not to think about it. If you have to swallow two frogs, don’t swallow the smaller one first.’

Vocabulary Help

- life – vida
- frogs – sapos
- swallow – engolir
- smaller one – menor

263

Rusty Old Thing

This old fellow in his eighties got up and was putting on his coat.

His wife asked, “Where are you going?”

He said, “I’m going to the doctor.”

She replied, “Why, are you sick?”

‘No,’ he said, ‘I’m going to get me some of those new Viagra pills.’”

So, his wife got up out of her rocker and was putting on her sweater when he asked, “Where are you going?”

She said, “I’m going to the doctor too.”

He asked, “Why?”

She said, “If you’re going to start using that rusty old thing again I’m going to get a tetanus shot.”

Vocabulary Help

- rusty – enferrujado
- old fellow – pessoa de idade
- get (get, got, gotten) up – levantar
- sick – doente
- rocker – cadeira de balanço
- tetanus shot – vacina contra tétano

264

Professionals and Amateurs

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

Vocabulary Help

- afraid – temeroso, com medo
- amateurs – amadores
- ark – arca (de Noé)

- build (build, built, built) – construir

265

Planning Ahead

In 1953 Yale students were asked if they had set themselves goals. Only a tiny percentage of those asked had set their goals for themselves and only 3% had written those goals down. Twenty years later those same graduates were assessed to see how well they had progressed. Those who had set written goals for themselves were found to be healthier, happier and wealthier than the remaining 75% put together

HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW

Vocabulary Help

- goals – objetivos
- tiny – pequena
- write down – escrever, registrar
- assess – avaliar
- healthier – mais saudáveis
- happier – mais felizes
- wealthier – mais bem de vida
- remaining – remanescente
- put together – juntos

266

Enemies

Love your enemies: they'll go crazy trying to figure out what you're up to.

Vocabulary Help

- enemy, enemies – inimigo, inimigos
- go crazy – enlouquecer
- try – tentar
- figure out – entender, compreender
- what you're up to – o que você pretende

267

Sad Stories

Bill, Jim and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper.

After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room.

Bill said to Jim and Scott, “Let’s break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I’ll tell jokes for 25 flights, Jim can sing songs for the next 25 flights and Scott can tell sad stories for the rest of the way.”

At the 26th floor, Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories.

‘I will tell my saddest story first,’ he said. ‘I left the room key in the car!!!’

Vocabulary Help

- sad – triste
- sharing – dividindo
- skyscraper – arranha-céu
- meetings – reuniões, encontros
- climb – subir a pé
- flights of stairs – escadas
- task – tarefa

268

Poverty

If you have to ask how much it is, you can’t afford it.

Vocabulary Help

- afford – poder ter

269

Somebody Under It

Shakey went to a psychiatrist. ‘Doc,’ he said, I’ve got trouble. Every time I get into bed, I think there’s somebody under it. I get under the bed, I think there’s somebody on top of it. Top, under, top, under. ‘You gotta help me, I’m going crazy!’”

‘Just put yourself in my hands for two years,’ said the shrink. ‘Come to me three times a week, and I’ll cure your fears.’”

“How much do you charge?”

“A hundred dollars per visit.”

“I’ll sleep on it,” said Shakey.

Six months later the doctor met Shakey on the street. “Why didn’t you ever come to see me again?” asked the psychiatrist.

“For a hundred bucks a visit? A bartender cured me for ten dollars.”

“Is that so! How?”

“He told me to cut the legs off the bed!”

Vocabulary Help

- trouble – problemas
- crazy – louco
- shrink – apelido de psiquiatra
- fears – temores, medos
- charge – cobrar
- I’ll sleep on it – vou pensar no caso
- bartender – barman
- cut the legs off the bed – cortar as pernas da cama

270

The Best

Don’t be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.

Vocabulary Help

- afraid – temeroso
- give your best – dar o melhor de si
- seemingly – aparentemente
- small jobs – tarefas pequenas
- much stronger – muito mais forte
- tend – tender
- take care of themselves – se arrumar por si só

271

Speaking to the Driver

In the US. of A., buses will have a sign saying “Don’t speak to the driver.”

In Germany, the sign reads: “It is strictly forbidden for passengers to speak to the driver.”

In England: “You are graciously requested to refrain from speaking to the driver.”

In Scotland: “What have you got to gain by speaking to the driver?”

And in Italy: “Don’t answer the driver.”

Vocabulary Help

- bus – ônibus
- sign – placa
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- driver – motorista
- forbidden – proibido
- refrain – não se permitir a
- gain – ganhar

272

The Lazy Husband

A very tolerant woman is finally widowed. She decides to have her husband cremated. After the ceremony, she brings the ashes home with her, and pours them into an egg-timer. Then she says, “Now you’ll work, you bum!!”

Vocabulary Help

- husband – marido
- ashes – cinzas
- pour – despejar
- egg-timer – contador de tempo para cozinhar ovos
- bum – vagagundo

273

Camouflages

Another enemy decoy, built in occupied Holland, led to a tale that has been told and retold ever since by veteran Allied pilots. The German “airfield”, constructed with meticulous care, was made almost entirely of wood.

There were wooden hangars, oil tanks, gun emplacements, trucks, and aircraft.

The day finally came when the decoy was finished, down to the last wooden plank. And early the following morning, a lone RAF plane crossed the Channel, came in low, circled the field once, and dropped a large wooden bomb.

Vocabulary Help

- enemy – inimigo
- decoy – engodo, embuste
- build (build, built, built) – construir
- lead (lead, led, led) – conduzir
- tale – história
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- airfield – campo de aviação
- wood – madeira
- RAF – Royal Air Force
- drop – deixar cair

274

Respect

If you are not treating yourself well, then you cannot expect others to treat you with the respect that you deserve.

Vocabulary Help

- treat yourself well – tratar-se bem
- deserve – merecer

275

The Atheist

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, “Oh, my God! Help me!”

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, “I thought you didn’t believe in Me!”

“Come on God, give me a break!!” the man pleaded. “Two minutes ago I didn’t believe in the Loch Ness monster either!”

Vocabulary Help

- atheist – ateu
- fishing – pescando
- suddenly – subitamente
- beast – besta
- toss – arremessar
- swallow – engolir
- freeze (freeze, froze, frozen) – congelar
- booming voice – voz cavernosa, retumbante
- clouds – nuvens
- believe – acreditar

- give me a break – dar um tempo

276

The Five Rules of Socialism

- Don't think.
- If you do think, don't speak.
- If you think and speak, don't write.
- If you think, speak and write, don't sign.
- If you think, speak, write and sign, don't be surprised.

Vocabulary Help

- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- write (write, wrote, written) – escrever
- sign – assinar

277

The Ass, the Fox, and the Lion

THE ASS and the Fox, having entered into partnership together for their mutual protection, went out into the forest to hunt. They had not proceeded far when they met a Lion.

The Fox, seeing imminent danger, approached the Lion and promised to contrive for him the capture of the Ass if the Lion would pledge his word not to harm the Fox.

Then, upon assuring the Ass that he would not be injured, the Fox led him to a deep pit and arranged that he should fall into it. The Lion, seeing that the Ass was secured, immediately clutched the Fox, and attacked the Ass at his leisure.

Vocabulary Help

- ass – asno
- fox – raposa

- partnership – sociedade
- hunt – caçar
- meet (meet, met, met) – encontrar
- approach – aproximar
- pledge – prometer

278

Working for the Government

My father works at a government research facility, and some years ago, when I was a little child, I asked him how many people worked out there.

He replied (of course): “Oh, about half.”

Vocabulary Help

- government research facility – órgão governamental de pesquisa
- years ago – anos atrás
- how many people worked out there – quantas pessoas trabalhavam lá
- reply – responder
- about half – mais ou menos a metade

279

The Funeral

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pall bearers are carrying the casket out when they accidentally bump into a wall, jarring the casket.

They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually still alive. She lives for ten more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end of the ceremony, the pall bearers are again carrying out the casket. As they are walking, the husband cries out, “WATCH OUT FOR THAT WALL!”

Vocabulary Help

- church – igreja

- pass away – falecer
- pall bearers – pessoas que carregam o caixão
- bump into a wall – bater em uma parede
- faint moan – leve gemido
- WATCH OUT FOR THAT WALL! – CUIDADO COM A PAREDE!

280

Bill Gates

Q: What's the difference between Bill Gates and God?

A: God doesn't think he's Bill Gates.

Vocabulary Help

- God – Deus
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar

281

Too Fast

A sloth was walking through the jungle one day when he was set upon by a gang of vicious snails. The snails left him bleeding and confused at the bottom of a tree where several hours later he summoned the strength to go to the police station and report the assault.

He was asked by the desk sergeant to describe his attackers.

He replied, "I don't know what they looked like, it all happened so fast."

Vocabulary Help

- sloth – preguiça
- through – através
- jungle – selva
- snail – lesmas
- bleed – sangrar
- bottom – fundo
- summon – reunir

- strength – força
- report – denunciar
- assault – ataque
- reply – responder
- look like – parecer com
- happen – acontecer
- fast – rápido

282

Smartest Man

A little girl was sitting on her daddy’s lap. She gazed up at her father and said, “Daddy, did anyone ever tell you that you’re the most wonderful and smartest man in the world?”

Her father, filled with pride, said, “Why no, honey, they haven’t.”

“Then where did you get the idea?” she asked.

Vocabulary Help

- lap – colo
- gaze up at – olhar para
- wonderful – maravilhoso
- smartest – mais esperto, inteligente
- filled with pride – cheio de orgulho
- honey – querida

283

The Fight

‘I’m ashamed of you,’ the mother said. ‘Fighting with your best friend is a terrible thing to do!’

‘He threw a rock at me!’ the boy said. ‘So I threw one at him.’

The mother stated emphatically, “When he threw a rock at you, you should have come to me.”

The boy quickly replied, “What good would that have done? My aim is much better than yours.”

Vocabulary Help

- fight – luta, briga
- ashamed – envergonhada
- throw (throw, threw, thrown) – jogar, arremessar
- rock – pedra
- quickly – rapidamente
- reply – responder
- aim – pontaria

284

Men

Every man is as God made him, ay, and often worse.

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

Vocabulary Help

- God – Deus
- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- worse – pior

285

The Toilet Seat

A man decides to take the opportunity while his wife is away to paint the toilet seat. The wife comes home sooner than expected, sits, and gets the seat stuck to her rear. She is understandably distraught about this and asks her husband to drive her to the doctor. She puts on a large overcoat so as to cover the stuck seat, and they go.

When they get to the doctor’s, the man lifts his wife’s coat to show their predicament.

The man asks, “Doctor, have you ever seen anything like this before?”

“Well, yes,” the doctor replies, “but never framed.”

Vocabulary Help

- wife – esposa
- toilet seat – tampa da privada
- sooner – mais cedo
- stuck to her hear – entalado no traseiro
- distraught – abalada
- overcoat – casaco
- cover – cobrir
- lift – levantar
- predicament – situação difícil
- framed – emoldurado

286

Rights

Men have as exaggerated an idea of their rights as women have of their wrongs.

E.W. HOWE

Vocabulary Help

- rights – direitos
- women – mulheres
- wrongs – erros

287

Wayward Baggage

A businessman walked into the New York airport, carrying his briefcase and two suitcases. He went up to the checkin window to – naturally – check in.

The cashier asked, “And where will you and your luggage be flying today, sir?”

He replied, “Well, I’m flying to Denver, but,” pointing at each item of luggage in sequence, “I want this sent to Seattle, this sent to Los Angeles, and this sent to Miami.”

The cashier blinked, somewhat taken aback, and eventually managed to say,

“I’m afraid we can’t do that for you, sir.”

To which the businessman replied, “Why not? You did it the last time.”

Vocabulary Help

- baggage – bagagem
- businessman – homem de negócios
- briefcase – maleta executiva
- suitcase – terno
- send (send, sent, sent) – enviar
- cashier – atendente, caixa
- blink – piscar
- taken aback – surpreso
- I’m afraid – temo que
- last time – última vez

288

None of Your Business

If I love you, what business is it of yours?

JOHANN VAN GOETHE

Vocabulary Help

- what business is it of yours – o que você tem a ver com isto

289

Wisdom

A man doesn’t begin to attain wisdom until he recognizes that he is no longer indispensable.

ADMIRAL BYRD

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; wisdom is humble that he knows no more.

WILLIAM COWPER

Seek the wisdom of the ages, but look at the world through the eyes of a child

RON WILD

Vocabulary Help

- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- attain – conseguir
- wisdom – sabedoria
- until – até que
- knowledge – conhecimento
- proud – orgulhoso
- learn – aprender
- seek – buscar, procurar
- age – idade
- look at – olhar para
- through – através
- eyes – olhos
- child – criança

290

The Young Writer

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her father's word processor. She told him she was writing a story.

“What's it about?” he asked.

“I don't know,” she replied. “I can't read.”

Vocabulary Help

- diligently – diligentemente
- father – pai
- word processor – processador de textos
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer
- what's it about? – sobre o que é?

291

Truth About Children

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

Be nice to your kids, for it is they who will choose your nursing home

Celibacy is not hereditary.

For adult education, nothing beats children.

If you have trouble getting your children's attention, just sit down and look comfortable.

Vocabulary Help

- unbreakable toy – brinquedo inquebrável
- nice – bom
- kids – filhos
- nursing home – asilo
- celibacy – celibato
- nothing beats children – nada melhor que crianças
- trouble – problemas
- look comfortable – pareça confortável

292

Procrastination

I always wanted to be a procrastinator, never got around to it.

Vocabulary Help

- procrastinator – pessoa que sempre deixa tudo para depois

293

Super Sex?

There was this 96-year-old man, fast approaching his 97th birthday. His friends and family all decided to throw him a grand milestone affair, including a beautiful babe to jump out of a cake for him.

Well, the party began and a fun time was being had by all. The cake was rolled out and this beautiful woman jumped out of the cake.

Eyeballing the crowd, she said “Where is the birthday boy?”

Everyone pointed to the old man. She looked at him and said (jokingly, I hope), “I’m going to give you some SUPER-SEX!”

The old man looked up at her, then looked down, then looked up at her again, and then looked down, looked at her again and said, “I’ll have the soup.”

Vocabulary Help

- fast – rápido
- friends – amigos
- throw him a grand milestone affair – oferecer-lhe uma grande festa comemorativa
- babe – garota
- jump out – sair
- cake – bolo
- party – festa
- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- eyeballing – olhando
- crowd – multidão
- birthday boy – aniversariante
- jokingly – brincando

294

Slowing Down

A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of by the police.

Vocabulary Help

- reach – chegar, alcançar
- caution – cuidado
- slow down – diminuir o ritmo
- instead – ao invés de

295

Swinging Rope

Eleven people were clinging precariously to a wildly swinging rope suspended from a crumbling outcropping on Mount Everest.

Ten were blondes, one was a brunette. As a group they decided that one of the party must let go. If that didn't happen the rope would break and everyone would perish.

For an agonizing few moments no one volunteered.

Finally, the brunette gave a truly touching speech saying she would sacrifice herself to save the lives of the others.

The blondes applauded.

Vocabulary Help

- clinging – se agarrar
- swinging rope – corda oscilante
- crumbling – desfazendo
- brunette – morena
- let go – soltar a corda
- perish – perecer
- truly touching – realmente comovente
- speech – discurso

296

Resting

Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

Vocabulary Help

- middle-age – meia-idade
- take longer – demorar mais
- rest – descansar
- get tired – ficar cansado

297

The Crusades

All the good knights were leaving for the Crusades.

One knight told his best friend: “My bride is without doubt one of the most beautiful women in the world. It would be a terrible waste if no man could have her. Therefore, as my best and most trusted friend, I am leaving you the key to her chastity belt to use should I not return from the Crusade.”

The company of knights were only a mile or so out of town when they noticed a cloud of dust approaching. Thinking it might be an important message from the town the column halted. A horseman approached. It was the knight’s best friend. He said “Hey, you gave me the wrong key!!”

Vocabulary Help

- knights – cavaleiros
- bride – noiva
- doubt – dúvida
- waste – desperdício
- trusted – confiável
- key – chave
- chastity belt – cinto de castidade
- cloud of dust – nuvem de poeira
- halt – parar
- give (give, gave, given) – dar

298

The Beginning

Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop.

Lewis Carrol, from “Alice in Wonderland”

Vocabulary Help

- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- go on – continuar
- till – até
- come to the end – chegar ao fim
- stop – parar

299

The Lottery

A Redneck buys a ticket and wins the lottery. He goes to Austin to claim it and the man verifies his ticket number.

The Redneck says, ‘I want my \$20 million.’ The man replied, ‘No, sir. It doesn’t work that way. We give you a million today and then you’ll get the rest spread out for the next 19 years’

The Redneck said, “Oh, no. I want all my money right now! I won it and I want it.”

Again, the man explains that he would only get a million that day and the rest during the next 19 years.

The Redneck, furious with the man, screams out, “Look, I want my money! If you’re not going to give me my \$20 million right now, then I want my dollar back!”

Vocabulary Help

- redneck – caipira
- ticket – bilhete
- claim – pegar (o prêmio)
- spread out – distribuídos
- right now – imediatamente
- screams out – gritar

300

China

There are a billion people in China. It’s not easy to be an individual in a crowd of more than a billion people Think of it. More than a BILLION people. That means even if you’re a one in a million type of guy there are still a thousand guys exactly like you.

Vocabulary Help

- crowd – multidão

- guy – pessoa, cara

301

The Taxidermist

My brother was walking home one fine summer afternoon when he spotted a young woman grieving over a pet dog that was recently struck by an automobile. The pet had just finished dying at the distraught woman's feet...

Allen: "Miss?"

Woman: "Sob! Huh? Sniff..."

Allen: "Miss, do you need a taxidermist?"

Vocabulary Help

- brother – irmão
- walk home – andar de volta para casa
- summer – verão
- afternoon – tarde
- spot – ver
- grieve – lamentar-se
- pet dog – cachorro, mascote
- struck by – atingido por
- die – morrer
- feet – pés

302

Secrecy

Secrecy is the beginning of tyranny.

Vocabulary Help

- secrecy – segredo, discrição

303

The Soda Machine

There was a beautiful young blonde at a soda machine in Vegas, and she arrived there just before a business man coming to quench his thirst.

She opened her purse and put in 50 cents, studied the machine a short while, pushed a Diet Coke selection, and out came a Diet Coke.

She placed it on a counter next to the machine. Then she reached in her purse again and pulled out a dollar and inserted it in the machine. Studying the machine carefully, she pushed the button for Coke Classic and out came a Coke Classic and 50 cents change.

She immediately took the 50 cents and put it in the machine, studied it for a moment and pushed the Mountain Dew button.

Out came a Mountain Dew. She placed them both on the counter next to the Diet Coke.

As she was reaching into her purse again, the business man, who'd been waiting patiently for several minutes by then, spoke up: "Excuse me, miss, but are you done yet?"

She looked at him and indignantly asked, "Well Duh! Can't you see I'm still winning?"

Vocabulary Help

- quench his thirst – matar sua sede
- purse – bolsa
- counter – balcão
- both – ambos
- speak up – falar

304

What Did You Learn

The child comes home from his first day at school.

His mother asks, "Well, what did you learn today?"

The kid replies, "Not enough. They want me to come back tomorrow."

Vocabulary Help

- learn (learn, learnt, learnt) – aprender

- child – criança
- ask – perguntar
- reply – responder
- not enough – não o bastante
- come back – voltar

305

The Charcoal-Burner and the Fuller

A CHARCOAL-BURNER carried on his trade in his own house. One day he met a friend, a Fuller, and entreated him to come and live with him, saying that they should be far better neighbors and that their housekeeping expenses would be lessened.

The Fuller replied, “The arrangement is impossible as far as I am concerned, for whatever I should whiten, you would immediately blacken again with your charcoal.”

Like will draw like.

Vocabulary Help

- charcoal-burner – carvoeiro
- fuller – pisoeiro
- entreat – implorar, rogar, insistir
- neighbor – vizinho
- housekeeping expenses – despesas de manutenção da casa
- lessened – diminuídas
- whatever – o que quer que seja
- whiten – branquear
- blacken – escurecer

306

The Ten Commandments

Moses, returning from the mountain, spoke to his people:

“The good news is we got them down to ten.”

“The bad news is that adultery is still one of them.”

Vocabulary Help

- commandments – mandamentos
- return – voltar
- speak (speak, spoke, spoke) – falar
- get them down to – conseguimos reduzir para
- good news – boas notícias
- bad news – más notícias
- adultery – adultério
- still – ainda

307

The Joke’s On Whom?

Two Portagees met on the street. The first Portagee bursts out laughing. The second Portagee says, “What are you laughing at?”

The first Portagee says, “You left your bedroom shade up last night, and I saw you making love to your wife.”

The second Portagee bursts out laughing and says, “The joke’s on you, I wasn’t home last night.”

Vocabulary Help

- meet (meet, met, met) – encontrar
- burst out – irromper
- laugh – rir
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar
- shade – cortina
- bedroom – quarto
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- joke – piada

308

Strong and Weak

The strong give up and move away, while the weak give up and stay.

Vocabulary Help

- strong – forte
- give up – desistir
- move away – ir embora
- weak – fraco
- stay – ficar

309

The Flies and the Honey-Pot

A NUMBER of Flies were attracted to a jar of honey which had been overturned in a housekeeper room, and, placing their feet in it, ate greedily. Their feet, however, became so smeared with the honey that they could not use their wings, nor release themselves, and were suffocated.

Just as they were expiring, they exclaimed, “O foolish creatures that we are, for the sake of a little pleasure we have destroyed ourselves.”

Pleasure bought with pains, hurts.

Vocabulary Help

- fly – mosca
- jar of honey – jarro de mel
- overturn – virar, derrubar
- housekeeper – empregado doméstico responsável pela casa
- greedily – gulosamente
- smeared – lambuzado
- wing – asa
- release – libertar
- foolish – tolo
- sake – objetivo, causa

310

Shakespeare

All things that are, are with more spirit chased than enjoyed.

SHAKESPEARE, "MERCHANT OF VENICE"

Vocabulary Help

- chased – caçadas
- enjoyed – desfrutadas

311

The Wolf and the Crane

A WOLF who had a bone stuck in his throat hired a Crane, for a large sum, to put her head into his mouth and draw out the bone.

When the Crane had extracted the bone and demanded the promised payment, the Wolf, grinning and grinding his teeth, exclaimed: "Why, you have surely already had a sufficient recompense, in having been permitted to draw out your head in safety from the mouth and jaws of a wolf."

In serving the wicked, expect no reward, and be thankful if you escape injury for your pains.

Vocabulary Help

- bone – osso
- stuck – agarrado
- throat – garganta
- hire – contratar
- crane – ave
- draw out – retirar
- grin – riso forçado
- grind – ranger
- safety – segurança
- mouth – boca
- jaws – mandíbulas

- wicked – mau, ruim
- reward – recompensa
- pains – dores

312

The Real Art of Conversation

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Vocabulary Help

- right thing – coisa certa
- unsaid – não dito
- wrong – errada
- tempting – tentador

313

The Singing Horse

One of your most ancient writers, a historian named Herodotus, tells of a thief who was to be executed.

As he was taken away he made a bargain with the king: in one year he would teach the king's favorite horse to sing hymns. The other prisoners watched the thief singing to the horse and laughed.

“You will not succeed,” they told him.

“No one can.” To which the thief replied, “I have a year, and who knows what might happen in that time. The king might die. The horse might die. I might die. And perhaps the horse will learn to sing.”

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- thief – ladrão
- take away – levar
- make (make, made, made) – fazer

- bargain – barganha, acordo
- teach (teach, taught, taught) – ensinar
- sing (sing, sang, sung) – cantar
- laugh – rir
- die – morrer
- horse – cavalo

314

Starting Early

Teacher: How can one person make so many stupid mistakes in one day?

Little Johnny: I get up early.

Vocabulary Help

- mistakes – erros, bobagens
- get up early – levantar cedo

315

The Penguins

A Cop was driving along the freeway when he drove past a red convertible car with a man driving it. In the back of the car were twelve penguins.

The Cop pulled the car over and said abruptly, “I want you to take these penguins to the Zoo.”

The driver said okay and took off. The next day the same Cop was driving along the same freeway when he passed the same red convertible car.

The car still had the man driving it with the twelve penguins sitting in the back.

This time the man and the penguins were wearing sunglasses.

The Cop pulled the car over again and said abruptly, “I thought I told you to take these penguins to the Zoo.”

The man said, “I did and now I’m taking them to the Beach.”

Vocabulary Help

- cop – policial

- freeway – auto-estrada
- drive (drive, drove, driven) – dirigir
- pull the car over – mandar estacionar
- took off – sair (com o carro)
- sunglasses – óculos de sol
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar

316

Talking

We seldom repent talking too little, but very often talking too much.

JEAN DE LA BRUYERE

Vocabulary Help

- seldom – raramente
- repent – arrepender

317

The Aged Memory From James Green

An elderly couple were experiencing declining memories, so they decided to take a power memory class, where they teach you to remember things by association. Later, the man was talking to a friend about how much the class helped him.

“Who was the instructor?” asked the neighbor.

“Oh, let’s see,” pondered the man. “Umm... What’s that flower, you know, that smells real nice, but it has those thorns?”

“A rose?” offered the neighbor.

“Right,” said the man. He turned toward his house and shouted, “Hey, Rose, what’s the name of the guy we took that memory class from?”

Vocabulary Help

- elderly couple – casal de idosos

- power memory class – aulas para melhoria da memória
- remember – lembrar
- later – mais tarde
- friend – amigo
- ponder – pensar, refletir
- smell – cheirar
- thorns – espinhos
- turned toward – virar-se em direção a
- guy – cara
- take (take, took, taken) – tomar

318

Sin

Of course I'm against sin; I'm against anything that I'm too old to enjoy.

Vocabulary Help

- sin – pecado
- against – contra
- enjoy – desfrutar, gozar

319

The Bees and the Flowers

Morris asks his son, aged 10, if he knows about the birds and the bees.

“I don't want to know!” the child said, bursting into tears.

Confused, the father asked his son what was wrong.

“Oh dad,” he sobbed, ‘at age six I got the ‘there's no Santa' speech. At age seven I got the ‘there's no Easter bunny' speech. Then at age eight you hit me with the ‘there's no tooth fairy' speech! If you're going to tell me now that grown-ups don't really have sex, I've got nothing left to live for!’”

Vocabulary Help

- son – filho

- aged 10 – de dez anos de idade
- birds – pássaros
- bees – abelhas
- child – criança
- bursting into tears – explodindo em lágrimas
- wrong – errado
- sob – soluçar
- Santa – Papai Noel
- speech – discurso
- Easter bunny – coelho da páscoa
- tooth fairy – fada dos dentes
- grown-ups – adultos
- nothing left to live for – nenhuma razão para viver

320

Temptation

The trouble with resisting temptation is it may never come your way again.

Vocabulary Help

- trouble – problema
- come your way again – aparecer novamente

321

Where is Perchek?

The farmers of a commune are gathered together by some officials for an announcement. The government spokesman steps up and announces that production is up, tractors are being manufactured in record quantities and the economy is wonderful. He then asks if there are any questions.

A farmer named Perchek raises his hand. “Yes, Comrade, a question. If everything is so wonderful, why are we hungry, ill-housed and ill-clothed?”

“An excellent question,” comes the reply. “I will ask it to my superiors and return to you with an answer.”

Three months later, the farmers are once again gathered and the same type of news is announced. The spokesman again asks if there are questions.

‘Yes,’ says one farmer. ‘Where is Perchek?’

Vocabulary Help

- commune – comuna
- gathered – reunidos
- together – juntos
- spokesman – porta-voz
- wonderful – maravilhosa
- hungry – famintos
- ill-housed – mal alojados
- ill-clothed – com roupas ruins
- reply – resposta
- farmer – fazendeiro

322

Worries

Worry a little bit every day and in a lifetime you will lose a couple of years. If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself not to worry. Worry never fixes anything.

MARY HEMINGWAY

Vocabulary Help

- worry – preocupar
- lifetime – vida
- lose (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- couple of years – par de anos
- wrong – errado
- fix it – consertar
- train yourself – treinar-se

323

The Great Writer

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer. When asked to define “great”, he said:

“I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!”

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

Vocabulary Help

- youth – juventude
- desire – desejo
- stuff – coisas
- world – mundo
- truly – verdadeiramente
- scream – gritar
- cry – chorar
- howl in pain and anger – uivar de dor e raiva

324

Experience

Experience is what you get when you were expecting something else.

Vocabulary Help

- expect – esperar

325

The Sick Lion

A LION, unable from old age and infirmities to provide himself with food by force, resolved to do so by artifice. He returned to his den, and lying down there, pretended to be sick, taking care that his sickness should be publicly known.

The beasts expressed their sorrow, and came one by one to his den, where the

Lion devoured them. After many of the beasts had thus disappeared, the Fox discovered the trick and, presenting himself to the Lion, stood on the outside of the cave, at a respectful distance, and asked him how he was.

“I am very middling, replied the Lion, but why do you stand without? Pray enter within to talk with me.”

“No, thank you”, said the Fox. “I notice that there are many prints of feet entering your cave, but I see no trace of any returning.”

He is wise who is warned by the misfortunes of others.

Vocabulary Help

- unable – incapaz
- den – covil
- lie – deitar
- pretend – fingir
- sick – doente
- beasts – feras, animais
- sorrow – tristeza
- fox – raposa
- trick – truque
- outside – fora
- cave – caverna
- middling – regular, médio
- prints of feet – pegadas

326

The Way Up

Always be nice to people on the way up; because you’ll meet the same people on the way down.

WILSON MIZNER

Vocabulary Help

- nice – agradável, gentil
- way up – subida, progresso social

- meet (meet, met, met) – encontrar
- same people – mesmas pessoas
- way down – decadência

327

The New Baby

For weeks a six-year-old boy kept telling his first grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year-old was obviously impressed, but made no comment.

Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, “Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?”

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, “I think Mommy ate it!”

Vocabulary Help

- weeks – semanas
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar, dizer
- teacher – professor
- allow – permitir, deixar
- child – criança
- lap – colo
- burst – into tears romper em lágrimas
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer

328

Courage

“Whatever you do, you need courage. Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.”

Vocabulary Help

- need – precisar, necessitar
- course – curso, caminho
- wrong – errado
- arise – originar a partir de
- follow – seguir
- win – conquistar

329

The Quality of Japanese Products

They're still laughing about this at IBM. Apparently the computer giant decided to have some parts manufactured in Japan as a trial project. In the specifications, they stated that they will only accept three defective parts per 10, 000.

When the delivery came in there was an accompanying letter. It said, "We Japanese had a hard time understanding North American business practices. But the three defective parts per 10, 000 have been separately manufactured and have been included in the consignment. Hope this pleases you."

Vocabulary Help

- laugh – rir
- trial project – projeto experimental
- state – afirmar
- defective – defeituosa
- delivery – entrega
- hope – esperar
- please – agradar

330

Bigamy

Bigamy is having one spouse too many. Monogamy is the same.

Vocabulary Help

- one spouse too many – uma esposa a mais

331

The Baby Girl and the Baby Boy

Two babies were sat in their cribs, when one baby shouted to the other, “Are you a little girl or a little boy?”

“I don’t know,” replied the other baby, throwing it’s hands in the air. “I don’t know how to tell the difference.”

“Well, I do,” said the first baby excitedly. He carefully maneuvered himself into the other baby’s crib, then lifted the blankets. After a couple of moments, he resurfaced with a big grin on his face. “You’re a little girl, and I’m a little boy,” he said proudly.

“Oh, you’re ever so clever,” cooed the baby girl, “But how can you tell?”

“It’s quite easy really,” replied the baby boy. “You’ve got pink booties, and I’ve got blue ones!”

Vocabulary Help

- crib – berço
- shout – gritar
- throw – jogar
- tell the difference – diferenciar
- maneuver – manobrar
- lift – levantar
- blanket – cobertor
- proud(ly) – orgulhosamente
- clever – inteligente
- pink – rosa
- booties – botinhas

332

Doubts

Only a fool has no doubts.

Vocabulary Help

- fool – tolo
- doubt – dúvida

333

The Farmer and the Snake

ONE WINTER a Farmer found a Snake stiff and frozen with cold. He had compassion on it, and, taking it up, placed it in his bosom.

The Snake was quickly revived by the warmth, and resuming its natural instincts, bit its benefactor, inflicting on him a mortal wound.

“Oh,” cried the Farmer with his last breath, ‘I am rightly served for pitying a scoundrel.’”

The greatest kindness will not bind the ungrateful.

Vocabulary Help

- winter – inverno
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- snake – cobra
- stiff – dura
- frozen – congelada
- cold – frio
- bosom – peito, seio
- warmth – calor
- bite (bite, bit, bitten) – picar
- wound – ferida
- last breath – último suspiro
- scoundrel – canalha, patife
- kindness – gentileza
- bind – ligar
- ungrateful – ingrato

334

Work is Love

Work is love made visible

And if you can't work with love but only with distaste,

It is better that you should leave your work

And sit at the gate of the temple and

Take alms of the people who work with joy

Vocabulary Help

- distaste – desgosto
- leave (leave, left, left) – abandonar, desistir de
- sit (sit, sat, sat) – sentar
- take alms – aceitar esmolas
- joy – prazer

335

The Cowboy

A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93. When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a 15 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

Vocabulary Help

- tough – durão
- counsel – aconselhar
- grandson – neto
- sprinkle – pulverizar, espalhar
- gunpowder – pólvora
- oatmeal – aveia
- hole – burado

- wall – parede

336

Television

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book”

GROUCHO MARX

Vocabulary Help

- turn on – ligar
- room – quarto, aposento
- read (read, read, read) – ler
- book – livro

337

Anesthesia

A man was just coming out of anesthesia after a series of tests in the hospital, and his wife was sitting at his bedside. His eyes fluttered open and he murmured, “You’re beautiful.”

Flattered, the wife continued her vigil while he drifted back to sleep. Later, her husband woke up and said, “You’re cute.”

“What happened to ‘beautiful?’” she asked him.

“The drugs are wearing off”, he replied.

Vocabulary Help

- wife – esposa
- bedside – lado da cama
- flutter – tremer
- beautiful – bonita, linda
- flattered – sensibilizada pelo elogio
- drift back to sleep – voltar a dormir
- wake up – acordar

- cute – bonitinha
- the drugs are wearing off – a anestesia está acabando
- reply – responder

338

Crying

It takes a big man to cry, but it takes a bigger man to laugh at that man.

Vocabulary Help

- cry – chorar
- laugh – rir

339

With Friends Like That...

Two men were walking down a path in the woods. It was nearing nightfall and they were tired from their long hike. They were headed back to their starting place when one of them noticed behind them came a huge black bear running VERY fast toward them.

One of the men dropped to the ground and was fumbling with his blue duffel bag.

The other man said, “What in the hell are you doing? There’s a huge black bear running toward us!”

The man on the ground replied, “I’m putting on my running shoes!”

“You’re putting on running shoes!? Do you expect to OUTRUN that bear??”

The man replied, “I don’t have to outrun that bear. I just have to outrun you!”

Vocabulary Help

- path – caminho
- woods – floresta
- nightfall – anoitecer
- tired – cansado
- hike – caminhada

- headed back – voltado
- huge – enorme
- bear – urso
- fumbling – mexendo
- ground – chão
- running shoes – sapatos de corrida
- outrun – correr mais rápido

340

Successful Business

Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courageous decision.

PETER DRUCKER

Vocabulary Help

- successful – bem sucedido
- business – negócio
- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- management – gerenciamento

341

The Surgery

A man who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an abdominal one, there was no earthly reason why he should be complaining of a headache.

Finally his nurse, fearing that the man might be suffering from some post-operative shock, if not a psychosomatic phase, spoke to the doctor about it.

‘Don’t worry about a thing,’ the doctor told the nurse, looking somewhat amused. ‘He really does have a bump on his head... About halfway through the operation we ran out of anesthetic.’

Vocabulary Help

- undergone – submeter-se
- complain – reclamar
- bump – galo (na cabeça)
- headache – dor de cabeça
- nurse – enfermeira
- halfway through – no meio
- run out of – acabar
- anesthetic – anestesia

342

Failure and Success

Most success springs from an obstacle or failure. I became a cartoonist largely because I failed in my goal of becoming a successful executive.

SCOTT ADAMS

Vocabulary Help

- spring – se origina, deriva
- failure – fracasso
- become (become, became, became) – tornar, vir a ser
- goal – objetivo

343

Engineers

Two male engineering students meet each other on campus. One says to the other:

“Hi Bill, Where did you get that new bike?”

Bill replies:

“Well, I was walking to class the other day when this pretty girl rode up, jumped off her bike, took all her clothes off and said ‘You can have anything you want!’”

‘Good idea,’ Bill’s friend replied. ‘Her clothes probably wouldn’t have fit you anyway’”

Vocabulary Help

- male – do sexo masculino
- meet (meet, met, met) – encontrar
- bike – bicicleta
- reply – responder
- walk – caminhar, andar
- pretty – bonita
- ride (ride, rode, ridden) – andar (de bicicleta)
- jump off – saltar (da bicicleta)
- take off – tirar (as roupas)
- fit – servir

344

To Err

To err is human, to forgive, beyond the scope of the Operating System.

Vocabulary Help

- err – errar
- forgive – perdoar
- beyond – além
- scope – escopo

345

Whisper

A young couple was expecting a visit from the pastor of their church. They wanted everything to go smoothly, but their two-year-old son was just getting the hang of potty training. He was at the stage where he would announce at the top of his voice, “I gotta pee,” when he had to go to the bathroom.

His father, worried that this might be embarrassing when the minister came to call, instructed the child, “Don’t shout that you’ve got to pee. Whisper!”

That evening the pastor makes his visit. He’s there a very long time and the two-year-old is on one foot and the other.

Finally, the minister asks him, “What’s the matter, son?”

The child looks at his dad and says, “I’ve gotta whisper!”

Pastor says, “It’s all right, child. Whisper in my ear.”

Vocabulary Help

- church – igreja
- smoothly – suavemente, sem contratempos
- potty training – treinamento para urinar no vaso
- I gotta pee – preciso fazer xixi
- bathroom – banheiro
- worried – preocupado
- shout – gritar
- whisper – sussurrar
- ear – ouvido

346

Importance

Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.

MAHATMA GANDHI

Vocabulary Help

- whatever – o que quer que seja

347

The Goat and the Goatherd

A GOATHERD had sought to bring back a stray goat to his flock. He whistled and sounded his horn in vain; the straggler paid no attention to the summons.

At last the Goatherd threw a stone, and breaking its horn, begged the Goat not to tell his master.

The Goat replied, “Why, you silly fellow, the horn will speak though I be silent.”

Do not attempt to hide things which cannot be hid.

Vocabulary Help

- goatherd – pastor de cabras
- seek (seek, sought, sought) – procurar, tentar
- bring back – trazer de volta
- stray goat – cabra desgarrada
- flock – rebanho
- whistle – apitar
- sound the horn – tocar a buzina
- vain – vão
- straggler – cabra desgarrada
- summons – chamados
- stone – pedra
- silly – estúpido, idiota
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- though – embora

348

The Doctor

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.

ERMA BOMBECK

Vocabulary Help

- office plants – plantas do escritório
- die – morrer

349

True Age

A lady is having a bad day at the roulette tables in ‘Vegas. She’s down to her last \$50.

Exasperated, she exclaims, “What rotten luck! What in the world should I do

now?”

A man standing next to her, trying to calm her down, suggests, “I don’t know... Why don’t you play your age?”

He walks away. Moments later, his attention is grabbed by a great commotion at the roulette table. Maybe she won! He rushes back to the table and pushes his way through the crowd. The lady is lying limp on the floor, with the table operator kneeling over her.

The man is stunned. He asks, “What happened? Is she all right?”

The operator replies, “I don’t know. She put all her money on 29, and 36 came up. Then she just fainted!”

Vocabulary Help

- bad day – dia ruim
- rotten luck – má sorte
- calm her down – acalmá-la
- his attention is grabbed – sua atenção é atraída
- win (win, won, won) – ganhar
- push his way – abrir caminho
- crowd – multidão
- kneel – ajoelhar
- stunned – atordoadado
- faint – desmaiar

350

I’d Rather Be Fishing

The worst day fishing is better than the best day working.

Vocabulary Help

- fishing – pescar
- worst – pior
- better – melhor
- best – o melhor

351

Upset Eve

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset

“You’re running around with other women,” she charged.

“You’re being unreasonable,” Adam responded.

“You’re the only woman on earth.”

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

“What do you think you’re doing?” Adam demanded.

“Counting your ribs,” said Eve.

Vocabulary Help

- overly suspicious – extremamente desconfiadas
- upset – chateada
- charge – acusar
- quarrel – discussão
- fall asleep – adormecer
- be awakened – ser acordado
- poke him in the chest – cutucando-o no peito
- ribs – costelas

352

You Have Mail

A blonde went out to her mail box and looked in, closed the door and went back in the house. A few minutes later she went out and looked in the mail box again. She did this several times and her neighbor, who was watching her said:

“You must be expecting a very important letter today the way you keep looking into your mail box.”

The blonde answered:

“No, I’m working on my computer and it keeps telling me that I have mail.”

Vocabulary Help

- blonde – loira
- neighbor – vizinho
- expecting – esperando
- keep looking – ficar olhando
- keeps telling me – fica me dizendo o tempo todo

353

Go to Heaven

When we drink we get drunk

When we get drunk we go to sleep

When we sleep we commit no sin

When we commit no sin we go to heaven

So ... LET’S ALL GET DRUNK AND GO TO HEAVEN!!

Vocabulary Help

- drink (drink, drank, drunk) – beber
- drunk – bêbado
- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- sin – pecado
- heaven – paraíso, céu
- so – então

354

What We Are

What we Are is God’s gift to us. What we Become is our gift to God.

Vocabulary Help

- gift – presente

355

The Efficiency Expert

The efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution.

“You don’t want to try these techniques at home.”

“Why not?” asked someone from the back of the audience.

“I watched my wife’s routine at breakfast for years,” the expert explained. “She made lots of trips to the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets, often carrying just a single item at a time. ‘Hon, ‘ I suggested, ‘why don’t you try carrying several things at once?’”

The voice from the back asked, “Did it save time?”

The expert replied, “Actually, yes. It used to take her 20 minutes to get breakfast ready. Now I do it in seven.”

Vocabulary Help

- efficiency expert – especialista em eficiência
- lecture – palestra, aula
- note of caution – aviso
- try – tentar
- back of the audience – fundo da plateia
- watch – observar
- wife – esposa
- lots of trips – muitas viagens
- stove – fogão
- single item – único item
- several things – muitas coisas
- save time – economizar tempo
- actually – na verdade
- used to – costumava

356

Teaching

A definition of teaching: casting fake pearls before real swine.

BILL CAIN, "STAND UP TRAGEDY"

Vocabulary Help

- teaching – ensinar
- cast – jogar
- fake pearls – pérolas falsas
- real swine – porcos verdadeiros

357

Time to Move

Approaching eighty five years of age, Mrs. Lipkowitz finally decided it was time to give up her apartment in New York and move to Miami. She was given the name of a Florida realtor, who enthusiastically drove her all over Miami, extolling the virtues of every apartment they looked at.

‘And this one, what a steal,’ he rhapsodized, ‘the investment of a lifetime. Why, in ten years it’s gonna be worth three times...’

‘Sonny,’ interrupted Mrs Lipkowitz, ‘at my age I don’t even buy green bananas.’

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- give up – desistir de
- realtor – corretor
- drive (drive, drove, driven) – dirigir, conduzir
- extoll – exaltar
- what a steal – que barganha
- investment of a lifetime – excelente investimento
- will be worth – estará valendo
- sonny – filhinho
- I don’t even buy green bananas – eu não compro nem bananas verdes

358

Advice From the Coach

A basketball coach overheard in the locker room: “Remember boys, basketball develops leadership, initiative, and individuality. Now get out there and do exactly as I told you.”

Vocabulary Help

- coach – técnico
- overhear – entreouvir
- locker room – vestiário
- leadership – liderança
- get out – saiam
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar, dizer

359

The Christian and the Lion

This Christian was thrown into the ring with a lion. Terrified, he fell on his knees and started praying. At the same time the lion dropped down on its knees and started praying too.

The Christian, overjoyed, exclaimed, “Thank God! Another Christian!” To which the lion replied, ‘I don’t know about you, but I’m saying Grace.’”

Vocabulary Help

- throw (throw, threw, thrown) – jogar
- ring – arena
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- knee – joelho
- dropped down on its knees – ajoelhou-se
- pray – orar
- overjoyed – muito alegre, feliz
- say (say, said, said) – dizer
- saying grace – dando graças

- reply – responder

360

Idiots

In the first place, God made idiots; this was for practice; then he made school boards.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- first place – primeiro lugar
- for practice – para praticar
- school boards – comissão escolar

361

The Drunk and the Police

A drunk phoned the police from his cell phone to report that thieves had been in his car.

“They’ve stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the shift, the brake pedal, even the accelerator.” and gave them his location.

However, before the Police car left the station, the phone rang a second time and the same voice came over the line.

“Never mind,” he said with a hiccup, ‘I got in the back seat by mistake.’”

Vocabulary Help

- drunk – bebado
- cell phone – telefone celular
- thieves – ladrões
- steal (steal, stole, stolen) – roubar
- steering wheel – direção
- shift – marcha
- brake pedal – pedal do freio
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar, sair, partir

- ring (ring, rang, rung) – tocar
- never mind – não se incomodem
- hiccup – soluço
- back seat – banco de trás

362

At the Plane

It was mealtime during our trip on a small airline in the Northwest.

“Would you like dinner?” the flight attendant asked the man seated in front of me.

“What are my choices?” he asked.

“Yes or no,” she replied.

Vocabulary Help

- mealtime – hora da refeição
- trip – viagem
- dinner – jantar
- flight attendant – aeromoça
- choices – opções

363

The Father and the Son

A father noticed that his son was spending way too much time playing computer games.

In an effort to motivate the boy into focusing more attention on his schoolwork, the father said to his son, “When Abe Lincoln was your age, he was studying books by the light of the fireplace.”

The son replied, “When Lincoln was your age, he was the President of the United States.”

Vocabulary Help

- notice – notar

- spend (spend, spent, spent) – gastar, desperdiçar
- too much time – muito tempo
- effort – esforço
- schoolwork – trabalhos escolares
- age – idade
- fireplace – lareira
- reply – responder

364

Adventure

Without adventure, civilization is in full decay.

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD

Vocabulary Help

- decay – decadência

365

At the Zoo

A zoo keeper asked a big, strong fellow:

“Want a job?”

“Doing what?” he asked.

“Our gorilla died,” the zoo keeper replied. “If we got you a special suit, would you imitate him for several days?”

“Yes, sir!” he answered.

He did very well, until one day he accidentally entered in the lion’s den.

“Help!” he yelled.

“Shut up, you idiot!” cried the man dressed as a lion. “You’ll get us both fired.”

Vocabulary Help

- zoo – zoológico
- fellow – sujeito
- job – emprego

- die – morrer
- reply – responder
- suit – roupa
- several – muitos
- den – covil
- shut up – calar a boca
- dressed as – vestido como
- both – ambos
- fired – demitido

366

The Devil's Dictionary

Mad, adj.: Affected with a high degree of intellectual independence...

AMBROSE BIERCE, "THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY"

Vocabulary Help

- mad – louco
- high degree – alto grau

367

The Farmer and the Cranes

SOME CRANES made their feeding grounds on some plowlands newly sown with wheat. For a long time the Farmer, brandishing an empty sling, chased them away by the terror he inspired; but when the birds found that the sling was only swung in the air, they ceased to take any notice of it and would not move.

The Farmer, on seeing this, charged his sling with stones, and killed a great number. The remaining birds at once forsook his fields, crying to each other, "It is time for us to be off to Liliput: for this man is no longer content to scare us, but begins to show us in earnest what he can do.

If words suffice not, blows must follow.

Vocabulary Help

- crane – ave
- feeding ground – local de alimentação
- plowland – campo arado
- sown – semeado
- wheat – trigo
- brandish – brandir
- sling – estilingue
- chase – caçar
- swing – balançar, girar
- cease – parar, cessar
- take notice – notar

368

Beauty

A beautiful woman is a picture which drives all beholders nobly mad.

EMERSON

Vocabulary Help

- woman – mulher
- picture – gravura
- drive mad – deixar louco
- beholders – admiradores

369

The Artist

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings on display at that time.

“I have good news and bad news,” the owner replied. “The good news is that a gentleman enquired about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death. When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings.”

“That’s wonderful!” the artist exclaimed.

“What’s the bad news?”

“The guy was your doctor.”

Vocabulary Help

- gallery owner – dono da galeria
- paintings – quadros, pinturas
- good news and bad news – boas notícias e más notícias
- enquire – perguntar
- wonder – imaginar
- appreciate in value – valorizar
- death – morte
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- wonderful – maravilhoso
- guy – cara

370

Excuses

Don’t change the reason, just change the excuses!

JOE COINTMENT

Vocabulary Help

- reason – razão
- excuses – desculpas

371

At the Courtroom

Carlson was charged with stealing a Mercedes Benz, and after a long trial, the jury acquitted him. Later that day Carlson came back to the judge who had presided at the hearing.

‘Your honor,’ he said, ‘I wanna get out a warrant for that dirty lawyer of mine.’

‘Why?’ asked the judge. ‘He won your acquittal. What do you want to have

him arrested for?”

“Well, your honor,” replied Carlson, “I didn’t have the money to pay his fee, so he went and took the car I stole.”

Vocabulary Help

- charged with – acusado de
- after – após, depois
- trial – julgamento
- acquit – absolver
- later – mais tarde
- hearing – audiência
- warrant – mandado
- dirty – sujo
- lawyer – advogado
- win (win, won, won) – ganhar
- arrest – prender
- fee – honorários
- take (take, took, taken) – tomar
- steal (steal, stole, stolen) – roubar

372

And the Eggs

Psychiatrist: What’s wrong with your brother?

Sister: He thinks he’s a chicken.

Psychiatrist: How long has he been acting like a chicken?

Sister: Three years. We would have come in sooner, but we needed the eggs.

Vocabulary Help

- wrong – errado
- brother – irmão
- sooner – antes, mais cedo

373

Stretching the Truth

I told my husband that I wanted to keep our outside pool heated all year so that I could lose weight by swimming every day.

‘Whales swim from Alaska to Chile,’ he retorted, ‘and they don’t lose an ounce.’

ANGIE PAPADAKIS

Vocabulary Help

- stretch – esticar
- truth – verdade
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- husband – marido
- outside – do lado de fora
- pool – piscina
- heated – aquecida
- lose weight – perder peso
- swim – nadar
- whales – baleias
- ounce – onça (unidade de peso)

374

Acts of Life

Execute every act of thy life as though it were thy last.

MARCUS AURELIUS

Vocabulary Help

- thy (arcaico) – tua
- life – vida
- as though – como se
- last – último

375

A Faithful Companion

One day George grew very sick. As his wife approached him he looked up and smiled. She began to cry but she tried to hold back her tears.

When she built up her courage she said:

“George, during the 47 years that we were married, I was always with you. During the flood that destroyed the house, I was with you. When you had heart surgery, I was with you. When our financial problems were depressing you, I was with you. When the fire burnt down our house I was with you. And now that you are about to die, I am with you.”

The man nodded his head and replied in a soft weak voice “You were with me all those times Mildred. Maybe, you are just bad luck.”

Vocabulary Help

- faithful – fiel
- sick – doente
- flood – inundação
- heart surgery – cirurgia cardíaca
- fire – fogo
- burn (burn, burnt, burnt) – queimar
- nod – balançar
- you are just bad luck – você dá azar

376

Education

Education: the inculcation of the incomprehensible into the indifferent by the incompetent.

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES (1883-1946) ENGLISH ECONOMIST

Vocabulary Help

- incomprehensible – incompreensível

377

How To Get Old

An elderly woman walked up to a little old man rocking in a chair on his porch. Though he looked weathered and feeble, he had a content smile on his face.

‘I couldn’t help noticing how happy you look,’ she said. ‘What’s your secret for a happy life?’

‘Well, I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day,’ he said waving a wrinkled hand through the air, with a smoldering cigarette between his thumb and finger. ‘I also drink a case of whiskey a week, eat fatty foods, and never exercise.’

‘That’s amazing!’ said the woman. ‘So, how old are you?’

‘Twenty-six.’

Vocabulary Help

- elderly – idosa
- rocking in a chair – balançando-se em uma cadeira
- porch – varanda
- weathered and feeble – envelhecido e fraco
- content smile – sorriso de contentamento
- smoke – fumar
- wrinkled – enrugada
- hand – mão
- thumb – polegar
- fatty foods – comidas gordurosas
- amazing – surpreendente

378

Truth

A truth that’s told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent.

WILLIAM BLAKE

Vocabulary Help

- truth – verdade
- tell (tell, told, told) – contada
- bad intent – más intenções
- beat – vence
- lie – mentira

379

I've Had a Course in First Aid

It was a stifling hot day and a man fainted in the middle of a busy intersection. Traffic quickly piled up in all directions, and a woman rushed to help him.

When she knelt down to loosen his collar, a man emerged from the crowd pushed her aside, and said, "It's all right honey, I've had a course in first aid."

The woman stood up and watched as he took the ill man's pulse and prepared to administer artificial respiration.

At this point she tapped him on the shoulder and said:

"When you get to the part about calling a doctor, I'm already here."

Vocabulary Help

- first aid – primeiros socorros
- stifling hot – dia quente e sufocante
- faint – desmaiar
- busy intersection – cruzamento movimentado
- kneel (kneel, knelt, knelt) – ajoelhar
- loose – afrouxar
- crowd – multidão
- tap on the shoulder – bater, cutucar, no ombro

380

When in Doubt

When in doubt, tell the truth.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- doubt – dúvida
- truth – verdade

381

Horse Races

This man was sitting quietly reading his paper one morning, peacefully enjoying himself, when his wife sneaks up behind him and whacks him on the back of his head with a huge frying pan

MAN: “What was that for?”

WIFE: “What was that piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Marylou written on it?”

MAN: “Oh, honey, remember two weeks ago when I went to the horse races? Marylou was the name of one of the horses I bet on.”

The wife looked all satisfied, apologizes, and goes off do work around the house. Three days later he is once again sitting in his chair reading and she repeats the frying pan swatting.

MAN: “What the hell was that for this time?”

WIFE: “Your horse called.”

Vocabulary Help

- paper – jornal
- sneak up behind him – se aproxima dele por trás
- whack him – bate nele
- huge frying pan – enorme frigideira
- horse races – corridas de cavalo
- apologize – desculpar
- your horse called – seu cavalo ligou

382

Best Teacher

Time is the best teacher; unfortunately, it kills all its students.

Vocabulary Help

- unfortunately – infelizmente
- kill – matar

383

Home From Work

Three women who work in the same office notice that their female boss has started leaving work early every day, so one day they decide that after she leaves, they'll take off early, too. After all, she never calls or comes back, so how is she to know?

The brunette is thrilled to get home early. She does a little gardening, watches a movie, and then goes to bed earlier. The redhead is elated to be able to get in a quick workout at her health club before meeting a dinner date. The blonde is also very happy to be home early, but as she goes upstairs she hears noises coming from her bedroom. She quietly opens the door a crack and is mortified to see her husband in bed with HER BOSS! Ever so gently, she closes the door and creeps out of her house.

The next day the brunette and redhead talk about leaving early again, but when they ask the blonde if she wants to leave early also, she exclaims: “NO WAY! Yesterday I almost got caught!”

Vocabulary Help

- female boss – chefe mulher
- brunette – morena
- thrilled – excitada
- redhead – ruiva
- elated – satisfeita, feliz
- upstairs – andar de cima
- noises – barulhos
- husband – marido
- creep out – sair de fininho

- No way! – De jeito nenhum!
- get caught – ser apanhada

384

Acquaintance

A person whom we know well enough to borrow from but not well enough to lend to. A degree of friendship called slight when the object is poor or obscure, and intimate when he is rich or famous.

AMBROSE BIERCE, "THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY"

Vocabulary Help

- acquaintance – conhecido
- whom – a quem
- well enough – bem o suficiente
- borrow from – pedir emprestado
- lend to – emprestar
- degree – grau
- friendship – amizade
- slight – ligeira
- poor or obscure – pobre ou obscuro
- intimate – íntimo

385

Words of Caution

'Beware of the man who works hard to learn something, learns it, and finds himself no wiser than before,' Bokonon tells us. 'He is full of murderous resentment of people who are ignorant without having come by their ignorance the hard way.'

KURT VONNEGUT, "CAT'S CRADLE"

Vocabulary Help

- beware of – cuidado com
- work hard – trabalha duro

- learn (learn, learnt, learnt) – aprender
- no wiser than before – não mais sábio do que antes
- murderous resentment – ressentimento assassino
- hard way – da maneira mais difícil

386

Anniversary Gift

A young man wanted to get his beautiful blonde wife something nice for their first wedding anniversary. So, he decides to buy her a cell phone. She is all excited and she loves her phone. He shows her and explains to her all the features on the phone.

The next day the blonde goes shopping. Her phone rings and it's her husband: "Hi hon," he says, "How do you like your new phone?"

"I just love it, it's so small and your voice is clear as a bell. But there's one thing I don't understand. How did you know I was at the beauty parlor?"

Vocabulary Help

- wedding – casamento
- cell phone – telefone celular
- features – recursos
- bell – sino
- beauty parlor – salão de beleza

387

At Church

An old man goes to a church, and is making a confession:

Man: Father, I am 75 years old. I have been married for 50 years. All these years I had been faithful to my wife, but yesterday I was intimate with an 18-year-old.

Father: When was the last time you made a confession?

Man: I never have, I am Jewish.

Father: Then why are you telling me all this?

Man: I am telling everybody ...

Vocabulary Help

- church – igreja
- faithful – fiel
- wife – esposa
- Jewish – judeu
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar

388

Money to Burn

Anybody with money to burn will easily find someone to tend the fire.

Vocabulary Help

- money to burn – dinheiro para queimar
- easily – facilmente
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- tend the fire – alimentar o fogo

389

Door to Door

Two church members were going door to door, and knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their message, and slammed the door in their faces.

To her surprise, however, the door did not close and, in fact, bounced back open. She tried again, really put her back into it, and slammed the door again with the same result – the door bounced back open.

Convinced these rude young people were sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson, when one of them said.

“Ma’am, before you do that again you need to move your cat.”

Vocabulary Help

- door to door – porta em porta
- knock – bater
- happy – feliz
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar, dizer
- hear (hear, heard, heard) – ouvir
- slam the door – bater a porta
- bounce back – voltar
- sticking their foot in the door – colocando o pé na porta

390

Bankers

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- banker – banqueiro
- fellow – sujeito
- lend – emprestar
- umbrella – guarda-chuva
- sun – sol
- shine – brilhar
- want it back – querer de volta
- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- rain – chover

391

Condoms

A father and his son go into the grocery store when they happen upon the condom aisle. The son asks his father why there are so many different boxes of condoms.

The father replies: “Well you see the 3 pack? That’s for when you’re in high school. You have 2 for Friday night and 1 for Saturday night.”

The son then asks his father, “Well, what’s the 6 pack for?”

The father replies, “That’s for when you’re in college, son. You have 2 for Friday night, 2 for Saturday night, and 2 for Sunday morning.”

Then the son asks his father, “What’s the 12 pack for?”

The father replies, “Well that’s for when you’re married. You have one for January, one for February, one for March...”

Vocabulary Help

- grocery store – mercearia
- condom – preservativo
- college – universidade
- married – casado

392

Becoming a Writer

There are three reasons for becoming a writer: the first is that you need the money; the second is that you have something to say that you think the world should know; the third is that you can’t think what to do with the long winter evenings.

QUENTIN CRISP

Vocabulary Help

- become – tornar-se, vir a ser
- need – precisar
- say – dizer
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- world – mundo
- winter evenings – noites de inverno

393

At the Restaurant

A waiter brings the customer the steak he ordered with his thumb over the meat.

‘Are you crazy?’ yelled the customer, ‘You have your hand on my steak!’

‘What?’ answers the waiter. ‘You want it to fall on the floor again?’

Vocabulary Help

- waiter – garçom
- customer – freguês
- steak – bife, carne
- order – pedir
- thumb – polegar
- meat – carne
- crazy – louco
- yell – gritar
- hand – mão
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- floor – chão

394

Ecology

A lady came up to me on the street and pointed to my suede jacket:

‘‘You know a cow was murdered for that jacket?’’ she sneered.

I replied in a psychotic tone, ‘‘I didn’t know there were any witnesses. Now I’ll have to kill you too’’

Vocabulary Help

- cow – vaca
- murder – assassinar
- sneer – dizer algo em tom de desprezo

- reply – responder
- witness – testemunha
- kill – matar
- too – também

395

Good News, Bad News

A man went back to his doctor to get the results of tests he had done a week earlier. The doctor told him he had some good news and some bad news.

The patient said, “OK, what’s the good news?”

The doctor replied, “You have 24 hours to live.”

The patient gasped and said, “If that’s the good news, what could possibly be the bad news?”

The doctor said, “The bad news is that I should have told you yesterday!”

Vocabulary Help

- week – semana
- news – notícias
- gasp – engasgar
- tell (tell, told, told) – contar, dizer

396

Chicken for Lunch

Diner: Do you serve chicken here?

Waiter: Sit down, sir. We serve anyone.

Vocabulary Help

- sit down – sentar-se

397

The Ants and the Grasshopper

THE ANTS were spending a fine winters day, drying grain collected in the summertime. A Grasshopper, perishing with famine, passed by and earnestly begged for a little food. The Ants inquired of him:

“Why did you not treasure up food during the summer?”

He replied:

“I had not leisure enough. I passed the days in singing.”

They then said in derision:

“If you were foolish enough to sing all the summer, you must dance supperless to bed in the winter.”

Vocabulary Help

- ant – formiga
- dry – secar
- grain – grão
- summertime – verão
- grasshopper – cigarra
- perish – perecer
- beg – implorar, suplicar
- treasure up food – acumular comida
- leisure – lazer
- sing – cantar
- derision – desprezo
- fool – tolo
- supperless – sem jantar

398

Perfect Couple

The most happy marriage I can picture or imagine to myself would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

Vocabulary Help

- couple – casal
- happy marriage – casamento feliz
- picture – imaginar
- deaf – surdo
- blind – cega

399

American Indian Names

Three American Indian children were sitting around with their father when the youngest asked, “Father, how did you come up with our names?”

“Well,” the father says, ‘when each of my children were born, I named them after the first thing I saw outside. For example, after your older brother was born, I looked outside and saw an eagle flying in the sky, so I named him Soaring Eagle. When your sister was born, I looked outside and I saw a fawn scampering away, so I named your sister Running Deer. So why do you ask Black Dog Shitting?’”

Vocabulary Help

- children – crianças
- sit (sit, sat, sat) – sentar
- youngest – mais jovem
- bear (bear, bore, born) – nascer
- outside – do lado de fora
- eagle – águia
- fly (fly, flew, flown) voar
- sky – céu
- deer – cervo

400

At the Supermarket

A man approached the very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and asked:

“You know, I’ve lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?”

“Why?” she asks.

“Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman, my wife appears out of nowhere.”

Vocabulary Help

- lose (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- talk – conversar
- appear – aparecer

401

Keys in the ignition

One day a husband was chiding his beautiful blonde wife about leaving her keys in the ignition of her car.

“If I take them out of the car I lose them,” she reasoned.

“Yes, dear, but what if someone steals your car?” the husband countered.

“Oh, that’s okay,” the wife chirped happily, “I keep a spare key in the glove box!”

Vocabulary Help

- chide – repreender
- blonde wife – esposa loira
- keys – chaves
- ignition – ignição
- lose – perder
- steal – roubar
- keep – manter, guardar
- spare key – chave de reserva
- glove box – porta-luvas

402

Laws

Rune's Rule:

If you don't care where you are, you aren't lost.

Law of Supply (also known as the Law of Gifts):

You get the most of what you need the least.

Hane's Law:

There is no limit to how bad things can get.

Vocabulary Help

- care – importar
- lost – perdido
- supply – suprimentos
- gift – presente

403

Laziness

A man told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When the examination was complete, he said:

“Now Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.”

“Well, in plain English,” the doctor replied, “you're just lazy.”

“Okay,” said the man. “Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife.”

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, contar
- able – capaz
- used to do – estava acostumado a fazer
- I can take it – eu consigo suportar
- wrong – errado
- plain English – em inglês claro e direto
- lazy – preguiçoso

404

I Don't Care

You're getting old when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

Vocabulary Help

- don't care – não se importar
- spouse – esposa
- go along – ir junto

405

The Men in Heaven

Everybody on earth dies and goes to heaven. God comes and says:

“I want the men to make two lines. One line for the men that dominated their women on earth and the other line for the men that were dominated by their women. Also, I want all the women to go with St Peter.”

With that said and done, the next time God looked, the women are gone and there are two lines. The line of the men that were dominated by their women was 100 miles long, and in the line of men that dominated their women, there was only one man.

God got mad and said, “You men should be ashamed of yourselves. I created you in my image and you were all whipped by your mates. Look at the only one of my sons that stood up and made me proud. Learn from him! Tell them, my son, how did you manage to be the only one in this line?”

And the man replied, “I don't know, my wife told me to stand here.”

Vocabulary Help

- heaven – céu
- ashamed – envergonhados
- whipped – chicoteados
- mates – companheiras
- proud – orgulhoso

- learn (learn, learnt, learnt) – aprender

406

Computer Programs

Computer programmers do it byte by byte.

Vocabulary Help

- byte by byte – byte a byte

407

Snail Joke

The landlord of a pub is just locking up when there's a ring on the doorbell. He opens the door, and there's a snail sitting there.

“What do you want?” asks the landlord. The snail replies that it wants a drink.

“Go away, we're closed, and we don't serve snails anyway.”

The snail pleads and pleads with the barman to give him a drink, at which point the landlord gets fed up, kicks the snail and slams the door.

Exactly one year later, he's locking up again, and there's a ring at the doorbell. The landlord opens the door, and looks down to see a snail sitting there.

“What do you want?” asks the landlord.

“What did you do that for?” replies the snail.

Vocabulary Help

- landlord – dono
- pub – bar
- locking up – fechando
- doorbell – campainha
- snail – lesma
- go away – vá embora
- plead – implorar
- fed up – não suporta mais
- kick – chutar

- slam the door – bater a porta
- “What did you do that for?” – Por que você fez isto?

408

Reference Questions

Patron: “I am looking for a globe of the earth.”

Ref: “We have a table top model over here.”

Patron: “No, that’s not good enough. Don’t you have a life size one?”

Ref (after a short pause): “Yes, but it’s in use right now!”

Vocabulary Help

- looking for – procurando por
- table top model – modelo de mesa
- not good enough – não é bom o bastante
- life size – tamanho real

409

One Dollar a Piece

Two Irish farmers bought a truckload of watermelons, paying one dollar a piece for them.

Then they drove to the market and sold all their melons for the SAME price (\$1) they’d paid for them.

After counting their money at the end of the day, they realize they’d ended up with no more money than they’d started with.

‘See!’ said one. ‘I told you we should have got a bigger truck.’

Vocabulary Help

- Irish – irlandês (os irlandeses são as vítimas das piadas na Inglaterra e Estados Unidos)
- truckload – carga (de caminhão)
- drive (drive, drove, driven) – dirigir
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender

- pay (pay, paid, paid) – pagar
- end up – acabar com
- bigger truck – caminhão maior

410

Architecture

Talking about music is like dancing about architecture.

Laurie Anderson

Vocabulary Help

- talk – falar
- like dancing – como dançar

411

Life Lessons

A boy asks his father to explain the differences among irritation, aggravation, and frustration.

Dad picks up the phone and dials a number at random. When the phone is answered he asks, “Can I speak to Alf, please?”

“No! There’s no one called Alf here.” The person hangs up.

“That’s irritation,” says Dad.

He picks up the phone again, dials the same number and asks for Alf a second time.

“No – there’s no one here called Alf. Go away. If you call again I shall telephone the police.” End of conversation.

“That’s aggravation.”

“Then what’s ‘frustration?’” asks his son. The father picks up the phone and dials a third time:

“Hello, this is Alf. Have I received any phone calls?”

Vocabulary Help

- aggravation – aborrecimento

- at random – aleatoriamente
- hang up – desligar
- pick up – pegar
- dial – discar
- phone call – ligação telefônica

412

The Mule Team

Life is like being on a mule team. Unless you're the lead mule, all the scenery looks about the same.

Vocabulary Help

- mule – mula
- team – equipe, conjunto
- unless – a menos que
- lead mule – mula líder
- scenery – paisagem
- looks about the same – parece a mesma

413

Life

“However mean your life is, meet it and live it: do not shun it and call it hard names. Cultivate poverty like a garden herb, like sage. Do not trouble yourself much to get new things, whether clothes or friends. Things do not change; we change. Sell your clothes and keep your thoughts.”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Vocabulary Help

- mean – dura, difícil
- life – vida
- meet it – encarar-a
- shun – desprezar
- poverty – pobreza

- trouble – se preocupar
- clothes – roupas
- change – mudar
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- thoughts – pensamentos

414

Little Johnny and the Essay

The composition teacher asked the class to write about an unusual event that happened during the past week Little Johnny got up and read his essay.

It began, “Daddy fell into the well last week...”

“My goodness!” the teacher exclaimed. “Is he all right?”

“He must be,” said the boy. “He stopped yelling for help yesterday.”

Vocabulary Help

- essay – ensaio, redação
- happen – acontecer
- get up – levantar
- well – poço
- he must be – ele deve estar
- yell – gritar

415

Problems

I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated.

POUL ANDERSON

There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands.

No problem is so big and complicated that it can't be run away from.

LINUS (PEANUTS CHARACTER BY CHARLES SCHULTZ)

Vocabulary Help

- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- however complicated – não importa quão complicado
- looked at in the right way – examinado da maneira correta
- still more complicated – ainda mais complicado
- run away from – correr dele
- gift – present

416

Majority

Whenever you find that you are on the side of the majority, it is time to reform.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- whenever – quando quer que seja
- find – descobrir
- side – lado
- majority – maioria

417

Problems at Home

A doctor has some trouble with the sink on a public holiday. He calls the local plumber, only to be told it's his day off...

“But I get called out on my days off, too!” says the doctor, somewhat exasperated, and the plumber relents.

The plumber arrives, and glances over the sink, looking preoccupied. He mumbles something about golf, then hands the doctor a couple of aspirin and walks out, saying: “Put these in. If it doesn't clear up in 24 hours come and see me tomorrow.”

Vocabulary Help

- trouble – problema
- sink – pia

- holiday – feriado
- plumber – encanador
- day off – dia de folga
- too – também
- relent – concordar, ceder
- glance over – olhar superficialmente
- mumble – resmungar
- clear up – limpar, desentupir
- tomorrow – amanhã

418

Curiosity

“I could not, at any age, be content to take my place by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- fireside – lareira
- look on – ver a vida passar
- keep (keep, kept, kept) – manter
- alive – viva
- turn his back on life – virar as costas à vida

419

Marriage

“I never married because there was no need. I have three pets at home which answer the same purpose as a husband. I have a dog which growls every morning, a parrot which swears all afternoon and a cat that comes home late at night.”

MARIE CORELLI

Vocabulary Help

- need – necessidade
- pets – animais domésticos
- purpose – objetivo
- husband – marido
- dog – cão
- growl – rosnar
- parrot – papagaio
- swear – xingar
- cat – gato

420

Freedom

No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.

MARGARET H. SANGER

Vocabulary Help

- woman – mulher
- free – livre
- until – até que
- choose (choose, chose, chosen) – escolher
- whether – se
- mother – mãe

421

White Wedding Dresses

A fresh-faced lad on the eve of his wedding night asks his mother, “Mom, why are wedding dresses white?”

The mother looks at her son and replies, “Son, this shows the town that your bride is pure.”

The son thanks his mom, and then seeks his father opinion, “Dad, why are

wedding dresses white?”

The father looks at his son in surprise and says, “Son, all household appliances come in white.”

Vocabulary Help

- wedding dresses – vestidos de noiva
- lad – rapaz, garoto
- eve – véspera
- reply – responder
- town – cidade
- bride – noiva
- seek – procurar
- household appliances – aparelhos domésticos

422

Late for School

Teacher: Why are you late?

Little Johnny: Because of the sign.

Teacher: What sign?

Little Johnny: The one that says, “School Ahead, Go Slow.” That’s what I did.

Vocabulary Help

- late – atrasado
- sign – sinal
- school ahead – escola à frente
- go slow – devagar

423

Infidelity

Did you hear the one about the guy who came home and found his wife between the sheets with another man? Well, he pulls out a gun, saying:

“That’s enough! I’m going to put an end to this once and for all!”

Then he puts the gun up to his head.

The unfaithful wife shouts:

“Don’t do it! Don’t do it! Don’t kill yourself!”

The enraged husband replies, “Shut up, bitch – because you’re next!”

Vocabulary Help

- sheets – lençóis
- pull out a gun – puxar um revólver
- put an end to this – acabar com isto
- once and for all – de uma vez por todas
- shout – gritar
- enraged – irado
- bitch – cadela
- you’re next – você é a próxima

424

Life and Death

Life and death are seldom logical. But attaining a desired goal always is.

McCoy and Spock, “The Galileo Seven”, Stardate 2821.7

Vocabulary Help

- life – vida
- death – morte
- seldom – raramente
- attain – alcançar
- desired – desejado

425

Overpaid

A building contractor was being paid by the week. One day he approached the owner of the property and held up the check he’d been given. “This is two hundred dollars less than we agreed on,” he said.

‘I know,’ the owner said, ‘But last week I overpaid you two hundred dollars, and you never complained.’

The contractor said, “Well, I don’t mind an occasional mistake. But when it gets to be a habit, I feel I have to call it to your attention.”

Vocabulary Help

- building contractor – empreiteiro
- pay (pay, paid, paid) – pago
- by the week – por semana
- owner – dono, proprietário
- less – menos
- agree – concordar
- overpay – pagar a mais
- complain – reclamar
- mistake – erro

426

Deception

Love tells us many things that are not so.

KRAINIAN PROVERB

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- are not so – que não são verdadeiras

427

Puzzle

Three blondes walk into a bar and ask the bartender for three shots of tequila. He looks at them and says “OK” and pours their shots.

They all clink glasses and and yell ‘51 days!’ Then they proceed to slam the shots, looking very self-satisfied. They look back to the bartender and decide to order another round. This time they pick up the glasses again and, more gleefully, yell ‘ Only 51 days!’

The bartender finally can't stand wondering what they are talking about and asks them what they mean by "Only 51 days".

One of the blondes looks at him and says:

"Well," looking very smug, "We just finished a jigsaw puzzle. It took us only 51 days... and on the box it said 4-7 years."

Vocabulary Help

- blondes – louras
- pour – servir
- clink glasses – tocar os copos
- yell – gritar
- order – pedir
- wonder – imaginar
- smug – satisfeita
- jigsaw puzzle – quebra-cabeças
- box – caixa

428

Sex Life

Nina and Liz are having a conversation during their lunch break.

Nina asks, "So, Liz, how's your sex life these days?"

Liz replies, "Oh, you know. It's the usual, Social Security kind."

"Social Security?" Nina asked quizzically.

"Yeah, you get a little each month, but it's not enough to live on."

Vocabulary Help

- lunch break – intervalo para lanche
- kind – tipo
- enough to live on – suficiente para viver

429

Last Meal

Three guys are about to be executed and they are asked what they wish to have for their last meal.

The Italian responds, Peperoni Pizza, which he is served and then executed.

The Frenchmen requests a Filet Mignon, which he is served and then executed.

The Jew requests a plate of strawberries.

“STRAWBERRIES????”

“Yes, Strawberries.”

He is told “But they are out of season!”

“So, I’ll wait...”

Vocabulary Help

- wish – desejar
- last meal – última refeição
- strawberries – morangos
- out of season – fora de época
- wait – esperar

430

Evildoers

Nothing is easier than to denounce the evildoer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him

FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

Vocabulary Help

- denounce – denunciar
- evildoer – aquele que faz coisas condenáveis
- understand (understand, understood, understood) – entender, compreender

431

Preparing for Hell

An old man walks into the University Offices and says, “I’d like to enroll in a Latin course.”

The dean looks at him and asks rather coyly, “How old are you, Sir?”

“Ninety-three,” is the reply.

“Then why do you want to learn Latin, at your time in life?”

“Well,” the man explains, “I realize I haven’t got long for this world, but if I go to Heaven I’d like to be able to speak to God and the Angels in their own language, and I’d feel more comfortable if I knew some Latin.”

The dean thinks, and then asks: “But what if you don’t go to Heaven but go to—you know—the other place?”

“That’s alright – I can already speak German.”

Vocabulary Help

- enroll – matricular
- dean – reitor
- coyly – discretamente
- realize – compreender
- heaven – paraíso

432

Organizing Things

Let’s organize this thing and take all the fun out of it.

Vocabulary Help

- take all the fun out of it – acabar com toda a diversão

433

Kids Jokes

A four-year-old boy had still not given up the habit of sucking his thumb, though his mother had tried everything from bribery to reasoning to painting it with lemon juice to discourage the habit.

Finally she tried threats, warning her son that “If you don’t stop sucking your

thumb, your stomach is going to blow up like a balloon.”

Later that day, walking in the park, mother and son saw a very pregnant woman sitting on a bench. The four-year-old stared intensely, considering her gravely for a minute. Then he took a few brisk steps towards her, pointed sternly at her belly, and said, “Ooooo... I know what you’ve been doing!”

Vocabulary Help

- give up – desistir, abandonar
- suck his thumb – chupar o dedo
- though – embora
- bribery – suborno
- discourage – desencorajar
- threats – ameaças
- blow up – inchar
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- pregnant – grávida
- bench – banco
- stare – encarar
- brisk steps – passos rápidos
- towards – na direção
- belly – barriga

434

Lubarsky’s Law of Cybernetic Entomology

There’s always one more bug.

Vocabulary Help

- bug – problema, erro de programa

435

In Africa

An explorer in the deepest Africa suddenly finds himself surrounded by a

blood thirsty group of cannibals. Upon surveying the situation he says quietly to himself, ‘Oh God, I’m doomed.’ There is a ray of light from the sky above and a voice booms out: ‘No, my son, you are NOT doomed. Pick up that stone at your feet and bash in the head of the chief standing in front of you.’

So the explorer picks up the stone and attacks the chief, feverishly bashing at his head with all his strength. He stands above the lifeless body, breathing heavily and surrounded by 100 cannibals with a look of shock on their faces. The voice booms out again: “Okay... NOW you’re doomed.”

Vocabulary Help

- deepest – no mais profundo
- suddenly – subitamente
- finds himself – se encontra
- survey – analisar
- doomed – ferrado
- sky – céu
- booms out – retumbar
- stone – pedra
- feet – pés
- bash – arrebentar
- pick up – pegar
- strength – força
- lifeless – sem vida
- breath – respirar
- heavily – pesadamente

436

Originality

Xerox never comes up with anything original.

Vocabulary Help

- come up – criar, aparecer com

437

Accidents

“HOW DID IT HAPPEN?” the doctor asked the middle-aged farmhand as he set the man’s broken leg.

“Well, doc, 25 years ago ...”

“Never mind the past. Tell me how you broke your leg this morning.”

“Like I was saying...25 years ago, when I first started working on the farm, that night, right after I’d gone to bed, the farmer’s beautiful daughter came into my room. She asked me if there was anything I wanted.

I said, “No, everything is fine.”

“Are you sure?” she asked.

“I’m sure,” I said.

“Isn’t there anything I can do for you?” she wanted to know.

“I reckon not,” I replied.

“Excuse me,” said the doctor, “What does this story have to do with your leg?”

“Well, this morning,” the farmhand explained, “when it dawned on me what she meant, I fell off the roof!”

Vocabulary Help

- middle-aged – de meia-idade
- leg – perna
- daughter – filha
- reckon – admitir, reconhecer
- dawned on me – finalmente entendi
- fall off – cair
- roof – telhado

438

Equal Rights

Women who seek to be equal to men lack ambition.

Vocabulary Help

- seek – buscar
- lack – falta

439

The Barber's Wife

This guy sticks his head into a barber shop and asks, “How long before I can get a haircut?”

The barber looks around the shop and says, “About 2 hours” The guy leaves.

A few days later the same guy sticks his head in the door and asks, “How long before I can get a haircut?”

The barber looks around at shop full of customers and says, “About 2 hours.” The guy leaves.

A week later the same guy sticks his head in the shop and asks, “How long before I can get a haircut?”

The barber looks around the shop and says, “About an hour and a half.” The guy leaves.

The barber looks over at a friend in the shop and says, “Hey, Bill, follow that guy and see where he goes.”

In a little while, Bill comes back into the shop laughing hysterically.

The barber asks, “Bill, where did he go when he left here?” Bill looked up and said, “To your house.”

Vocabulary Help

- haircut – corte de cabelo
- leave (leave, left, left) – sair, partir
- stick – enfiar
- customer – freguês
- follow – seguir
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- laugh – rir

440

Darkness

It's always darkest just before it gets pitch black.

Vocabulary Help

- darkness – escuridão
- pitch black – escuro como piche

441

Oh, Give me a Home..

A woman was worried whether or not her dead husband made it to heaven, so she prays earnestly for God to allow him to speak to her.

“Hello Margaret, this is Fred.”

“Fred!” she exclaimed. “I just have to know if you're happy there in the afterlife. What's it like there?”

“Ooooooh, it's much more beautiful here than I ever imagined,” Fred answered. “The sky is bluer, the air is cleaner, and the pastures are much more lush and green than I ever expected. I lack for nothing; the only thing we do, all day long, are eat and sleep, eat and sleep, over and over.”

“Thank God, you made it to heaven,” his wife cried.

“Heaven?” he answered. “I'm a buffalo in Montana.”

Vocabulary Help

- worry – preocupar
- dead – falecido
- husband – marido
- heaven – paraíso
- pray – rezar
- allow – permitir
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- happy – feliz
- afterlife – vida depois da morte

- sky – céu
- pastures – pastagens
- lack – faltar

442

Cheap Things

Cheap things are of no value, valuable things are not cheap.

Vocabulary Help

- cheap – barato
- of no value – sem valor

443

At the Monastery

A middle-class man decides to go off and join a monastery which requires an oath of silence. No speech is allowed except for two words every 5 years, to sum up one's experiences to the head monk.

After the first 5 years, the monk asked him what two words described his experiences and all he said was "HARD BEDS".

When the next 5 year period came, the monk asked how things were and he replied "BAD FOOD".

After 5 more years, he walked up to the monk and said, "I QUIT!"

The monk nodded and muttered "Yes, this doesn't surprise me. You've been doing nothing but complaining for the past 15 years!"

Vocabulary Help

- middle-class – classe média
- go off – sair
- join – juntar-se a
- oath of silence – voto de silêncio
- speech – fala
- sum up – resumir

- head monk – monge chefe
- hard beds – camas duras
- bad food – comida ruim
- I quit – eu desisto
- nod – balançar
- mutter – murmurar
- complain – reclamar

444

Creditor

Creditor, n.: A man who has a better memory than a debtor.

Vocabulary Help

- creditor – credor
- debtor – devedor

445

Drinking and Driving

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible violators of the “drinking under the influence laws.”

At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys into 5 different cars before he got in his own. Then he sat in the front seat of his car fumbling around with his keys for several minutes.

Everyone else had left the bar. The police officer was just sitting and waiting for him, so excited to be stopping this drunk! He stopped the driver and read him his rights and administered the Breathalyzer Test. The results showed a reading of 000. The puzzled officer demanded to know how this could be. He even offered medical assistance if he was ill. The driver just smiled at him and said that all was fine. He went on to say “I must confess I was just the designated decoy for the evening!”

Vocabulary Help

- stake – caçar

- rowdy – barulhento, ruidoso
- curb – meio-fio
- fumble – mexer, tatear, apalpar
- keys – chaves (do carro)
- leave (leave, left, left) – sair
- drunk – bêbado
- Breathalyzer Test – teste do bafômetro
- puzzled – surpreso
- demand – exigir
- ill – doente
- smile – sorrir
- decoy – isca

446

Evil

No evil can happen to a good man.

PLATO

Vocabulary Help

- evil – mal
- happen – acontecer

447

Modern Indian Weather Prediction

A film crew was on location deep in the desert. One day an old Indian went up to the director and said, “Tomorrow rain.”

The next day it rained.

A week later, the Indian went up to the director and said, “Tomorrow storm.”

The next day there was a hailstorm.

“This Indian is incredible,” said the director. He told his secretary to hire the Indian to predict the weather.

However, after several successful predictions, the old Indian didn't show up for two weeks. Finally the director sent for him.

'I have to shoot a big scene tomorrow,' said the director, 'and I'm depending on you. What will the weather be like?'

The Indian shrugged his shoulders 'Don't know,' he said. 'Radio is broken.'

Vocabulary Help

- film crew – equipe de filmagem
- rain – chuva
- storm – tempestade
- hire – contratar
- weather – tempo
- show up – aparecer
- shoot a big scene – filmar uma cena importante
- shrug his shoulders – balançou os ombros, deu de ombros
- broken – quebrado

448

Fools

What one fool can do, another can.

ANCIENT SIMIAN PROVERB

Vocabulary Help

- fool – idiota

449

Anvil Joke

A farmer goes to town to run his usual errands. He has a pig, an anvil, a bucket and a chicken. He's thinking to himself, "Now, how am I going to carry a pig, an anvil, a bucket and a chicken?"

So he thinks about it for a bit, and decides to carry the bucket, put the pig in the bucket, place the anvil on top of the pig and carry the chicken under his other arm.

So he trudges into town carrying his load, when a pretty girl admiring his physique says:

“Sir, do you know the way to the fabric store?”

The farmer smiles, and says, “Follow me down this alley, I’ll be going right past it.”

The girl says, “If I follow you down this alley, you might molest me.”

The farmer says, “How could I molest you? I’m carrying a pig, an anvil a bucket and a chicken.”

The girl quickly follows, “Well, you could put the pig down, place the bucket over the pig, place the anvil on top of the bucket, and I could hold the chicken.”

Vocabulary Help

- errands – tarefas
- pig – porco
- anvil – bigorna
- bucket – balde
- chicken – galinha
- carry – carregar
- alley – viela, rua
- molest – molestar

450

Feeling Better

You’ll feel much better once you’ve given up hope.

Vocabulary Help

- give up – desistir
- hope – esperança

451

Is Windows a Virus?

Q: Is Windows a virus ?

A: No, Windows is not a virus. Here's what viruses do:

- They replicate quickly – okay, Windows does that.
- Viruses use up valuable system resources, slowing down the system as they do so – okay, Windows does that
- Viruses will, from time to time, trash your hard disk – okay Windows does that too
- Viruses are usually carried, unknown to the user, along with valuable programs and systems. Sigh... Windows does that, too.
- Viruses will occasionally make the user suspect their system is too slow (see 2) and the user will buy new hardware. Yup, that's with Windows, too.

Until now it seems Windows is a virus but there are fundamental differences:

Viruses are well supported by their authors, are running on most systems, their program code is fast, compact and efficient and they tend to become more sophisticated as they mature. So Windows is not a virus. It's a bug.

Vocabulary Help

- use up – consumir
- slow down – tornar lento
- trash – destruir, tornar inútil
- hard disk – disco rígido
- unknown – desconhecido
- too slow – muito lento
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- mature – amadurecer

452

Falling in Love

When you're in love, you're at the mercy of a stranger.

Vocabulary Help

- at the mercy – nas mãos

- stranger – estranho

453

The Optimist Farmer and the Pessimist Neighbor

One day the sun was shining brightly and the optimist said, “Great day, eh?”

The pessimist said, “The stupid sun will burn the crops.”

The next day it rained. Again the optimist tried to engage his friend, but the pessimist’s only response was: “Stinking rain will wash out all the seed!”

So the optimist took his friend duck hunting, which he loved. After the first duck was shot the optimist dispatched his dog to fetch the duck. The dog ran on top of the water, picked up the duck and ran back.

The optimist exclaimed: “Did you see that?”

The pessimist replied, “Dog can’t swim, eh?”

Vocabulary Help

- farmer – fazendeiro
- shine – brilhar
- burn – queimar
- crops – colheitas
- rain – chover
- engage – animar
- wash out – carregar, levar embora
- seed – sementes
- duck – pato
- hunt – caçar
- shot – alvejado, atingido
- fetch – pegar
- ran on top of the water – correu por sobre as águas
- swim – nadar

454

Examples

Nothing is ever a total loss; it can always serve as a bad example.

Vocabulary Help

- total loss – perda total
- bad example – mau exemplo

455

The Engineers Wishes

A lead systems engineer, a lead software engineer, and their program manager, are walking along the beach during lunch when they come upon an old brass lamp. They pick it up and clean it. Poof... Out pops a genie.

“Thank you for releasing me from my lamp-prison. I can offer you 3 wishes.”

“Since there are 3 of you I will grant one wish for each of you.”

The systems engineer thinks a moment and says, “I’d like to be sailing a boat across the Pacific racing before the wind with an all girl crew.”

“It is done”, said the Genie, and the systems engineer disappears.

The software engineer thinks a moment and says, “I’d like to be riding my Harley with a gang of beautiful women throughout the American Southwest.”

“It is done”, said the Genie, and the software engineer disappears.

The program manager looks at where the other two had been standing and rubs his chin in thought.

He then tells the Genie, “I’d like those two back in the office after lunch.”

Vocabulary Help

- release – libertar
- wish – desejo
- sail – velejar
- all girl crew – tripulação só de mulheres
- ride – andar (de motocicleta)
- throughout – através
- rub his chin – coçar seu queixo

- thought – pensamento

456

Old Age

You know you're getting on in years when the women at the office start confiding in you.

Vocabulary Helps

- getting on in years – ficando velho
- confide – fazer confidências

457

At the Bar

It was late one night when a man walked into a bar. He sat down and asked the bartender to bring him a beer. The bartender did. So the man quickly drank down the beer, then looked into his pocket, sighed and asked the bartender for another beer.

So once he received his beer, the man again drank it down.

After that he looked into his pocket again, sighed, and ordered another beer.

Now this went on for quite some time and each time the man finished a beer he would look into his pocket and then order another beer.

Now the bartender had begun to get suspicious so he said, "Hey man, how come every time you drink a beer you look into your pocket?"

The man replied, "Well...I have a picture of my wife in my pocket and I keep on drinking until she looks good, and then I go home."

Vocabulary Help

- sit (sit, sat, sat) down – sentar
- bartender – garçom
- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- drink (drink, drank, drunk) – beber
- beer – cerveja

- sigh – suspirar
- order – pedir
- go on – continuar
- how come – como pode
- keep on drinking – continuar bebendo
- look good – ficar bonita

458

Bad Investment

Guy comes up to me in a bar with a long, hang-dog expression.

“What’s wrong?” I ask him.

He replies, “I loaned \$4,000.00 to a guy for plastic surgery. Now I don’t know what he looks like.”

Vocabulary Help

- wrong – errado
- reply – responder
- loan – emprestar
- plastic surgery – cirurgia plástica
- look like – como se parece

459

The Thirsty Pigeon

A PIGEON, oppressed by excessive thirst, saw a goblet of water painted on a signboard. Not supposing it to be only a picture, she flew towards it with a loud whir and unwittingly dashed against the signboard, jarring herself terribly. Having broken her wings by the blow, she fell to the ground, and was caught by one of the bystanders.

Zeal should not outrun discretion.

Vocabulary Help

- pigeon – pombo

- thirst – sede
- goblet – taça
- fly (fly, flew, flown) – voar
- loud – alto
- whir – zunido, zumbido
- dashed – bater
- blow – choque
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- catch (catch, caught, caught) – pegar
- bystanders – passantes

460

Age and Treachery

Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill.

Vocabulary Help

- age – idade
- treachery – traição
- always – sempre
- overcome – suplantar, superar
- youth – juventude
- skill – habilidade

461

Elephant Jokes

Q: Where do you find elephants?

A: It depends on where you lost them.

Q: How many elephants can you fit in a taxi?

A: Four. (One next to the driver and 3 in back)

Q: How many giraffes can you fit in a taxi?

A: None, it's full of elephants.

Q: How do you know when an elephant is visiting your house?

A: There's a taxi outside with three elephants in it.

Vocabulary Help

- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- lost (lose, lost, lost) – perder
- fit (fit, fit, fit) – acomodar, colocar
- next to – próximo a
- driver – motorista
- full – cheio
- know (know, knew, known) – saber
- outside – fora
- in it – dentro

462

The Lottery Winner

A man rushes into his house and yells to his wife:

“Martha, pack up your things I just won the California lottery!”

Martha replies, “Shall I pack for warm weather or cold?”

The man responds, “I don't care. Just so long as you're out of the house by noon!”

Vocabulary Help

- rush into – entrar correndo, apressadamente
- yell – gritar
- pack up – fazer as malas
- win (win, won, won) – ganhar
- warm weather – tempo quente
- cold – frio
- I don't care – Eu não me importo
- noon – meio-dia

463

The Elephant and the Ant

An ant and an elephant share a night of romance. Next morning the ant wakes up and the elephant is dead.

‘Damn’, says the ant, ‘one night of passion and I spend the rest of my life digging a grave!’

Vocabulary Help

- ant – formiga
- next – próximo
- morning – manhã
- wake up – acordar
- dead – morto
- Damn! – Droga!
- say – diz
- spend (spend, spent, spent) – passar, gastar
- life – vida
- dig – cavar
- grave – sepultura

464

Still the Elephants

An Elephant; A Mouse built to government specifications.

An elephant is a mouse with an operating system.

Two elephants fell off a cliff. Boom Boom.

Vocabulary Help

- build (build, built, built) – construir
- fall off – cair
- cliff – penhasco

465

The Elephants in History

Q: What did the elephants say when they saw Hannibal coming over the hill?

A: Nothing, elephants can't talk.

Q: What did Charles de Gaulle say when he saw three elephants in sunglasses coming down the path?

A: Voila les elephants.

Q: What did Jane say when she saw the elephants over the hill?

A: "Here comes a bunch of grapes over the hill." She was colourblind.

Q: What is the difference between an Indian and an African elephant?

A: About three thousand miles.

Vocabulary Help

- say(say, said, said) – dizer
- hill – colina
- talk – falar
- sunglasses – óculos escuros
- bunch – cacho
- grapes – uvas
- colourblind – daltônico
- miles – milhas

466

Books

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them. The only books I have in my library are books that other folks have lent me.

ANATOLE FRANCE

Vocabulary Help

- lend (lend, lent, lent) – emprestar
- return – devolver
- library – biblioteca
- folks – pessoas

467

More Elephant Jokes

Q: How do you put an elephant into refrigerator?

A: Open door, put elephant in, close door.

Q: How do you put a giraffe into refrigerator?

A: Open door, get elephant out, put giraffe in, close door.

Q: How can you tell when there's been an elephant in your refrigerator?

A: Footprints in the butter.

Q: How can you tell when there are two elephants in you refrigerator?

A: It's rather hard to close the door.

Q: How can you tell when there've been four elephants in your refrigerator?

A: There's a taxi waiting outside.

Vocabulary Help

- put (put, put, put) – colocar
- get elephant out – tira o elefante
- how can you tell – como você sabe que
- footprints – pegadas
- butter – manteiga
- rather hard – bastante difícil
- wait – esperar

468

Farmers

“The Lord gave us farmers two strong hands so we could grab as much as we could with both of them.”

JOSEPH HELLER, “CATCH-22”

Vocabulary Help

- The Lord – Deus
- give (give, gave, given) – dar

- farmers – fazendeiros
- strong hands – mãos fortes
- grab – agarrar
- both of them – ambas

469

The Elephant at the Zoo

Tourist guide at zoo: “Ladies and gentlemen, this is the elephant, the largest animal to roam the lands. Every day the elephant eats 3 dozen bunches of bananas, 6 tons of hay, and 2000 pounds of assorted fruits. Madam, please don’t stand near the elephant’s backside... Madam, PLEASE, don’t stand near the elephant’s backside ... MADAM! MADAM! Too late. George, dig her out.

Vocabulary Help

- tourist guide – guia turístico
- roam – habitar, viver, circular
- land – terra
- eat – comer
- dozen – dúzias
- bunch – cacho
- assorted – diversas
- backside – traseiro
- too late – muito tarde
- dig out – desenterrar

470

Work

I go on working for the same reason a hen goes on laying eggs.

H. L. MENCKEN

Vocabulary Help

- go on working – continuo trabalhando
- hen – galinha

- lay eggs – botar ovos

471

The Elephants are Back

Q: What is the difference between an elephant and a mailbox?

A: You don't know? I'll never give you a letter to post!

Q: What is the difference between an elephant and a piece of paper?

A: You can't make a paper airplane out of an elephant.

Q: What is more difficult than getting an elephant into the back seat of your car?

A: Getting two elephants into the back seat of your car!

Q: What is more difficult than getting 2 elephants in the back seat of your car?

A: Getting a pregnant elephant in the back seat of your car!

Q: How do you shoot a blue elephant?

A: With a blue elephant gun.

Q: How do you shoot a red elephant?

A: No, not with a red elephant gun. You strangle him until he turns blue and then shoot him with a blue elephant gun.

Vocabulary Help

- mailbox – caixa para colocar cartas
- give (give, gave, given) – dar
- back seat – banco traseiro
- pregnant – grávida
- shoot – matar com tiros
- strangle – estrangular
- turns blue – ficar azul

472

Notice to Employees

Notice to Employees (Includes Part Time Workers)

SICKNESS

We will no longer accept your doctors' statements as proof. We believe if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to work.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR SURGERY

We are no longer allowing this practice. As long as you are employed here, you will need all of whatever you have and should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are, and to have anything removed would certainly make you less than we bargained for. Anyone having operations will be FIRED immediately.

PREGNANCY

In the event of extreme pregnancy, you will be allowed to go to the first-aid room when the pains are FIVE MINUTES apart. IF it is false labor you will have to take an hour's leave without pay.

DEATH

This will be accepted as an excuse, BUT we would like two weeks notice as we feel it is your duty to teach someone your job prior to ... or after death.

This new benefit program started yesterday.

The Management

Vocabulary Help

- notice to employees – aviso aos empregados
- sickness – doença
- proof – prova
- believe – acreditar
- able – capaz
- leave of absence for surgery – licença para cirurgia
- hire – contratar
- fired – despedido
- pregnancy – gravidez
- first-aid room – sala de primeiros socorros
- apart – espaçadas

- death – morte
- two weeks notice – aviso prévio de duas semanas
- duty – dever
- teach – ensinar

473

Getting Rich

Two salesmen are traveling in the country when their car breaks down. The only house around for miles was a large mansion. They knock on the door and a beautiful widow answers the door.

Since it is early evening and the garage will not be opened until morning, she offers to let them spend the night in the guest bedrooms.

In the morning they call the tow truck and leave. About three months later salesman number one opens a letter and can't believe what he reads. He goes to salesman number two and says:

“When we spent the night at the widow's mansion, did you sneak away into her bedroom in the middle of the night?”

“Why, yes I did.”

“And did you use my name?”

“Why, yes how did you know?”

“Well, it seems she died and left me her 5 million dollar estate!”

Vocabulary Help

- salesmen – vendedores
- travel – viajar
- break down – quebrar
- knock – bater
- widow – viúva
- since – desde que
- garage – oficina mecânica
- until – até
- spend (spend, spent, spent) – passar

- guest bedrooms – quartos de hóspedes
- tow truck – guincho
- believe – acreditar
- sneak away – ir escondido
- middle of the night – meio da noite
- die – morrer
- estate – propriedade

474

At the Cemetery

A drunk leaves a bar and decides to take a shortcut through a graveyard. It is raining heavily and very dark. The drunk fails to see an open grave and falls into it. He tries to climb out of it, but it is too deep and the rain has turned the dirt to mud and has made it too slippery to climb.

He gives up after a while and decides to spend the night there.

A while later, another drunk leaves the same bar and decides to take the same shortcut through the graveyard. He, too, falls into that open grave and tries to climb out but the mud is too slippery. The first drunk is still sitting there and watches as the other drunk tries but fails to get out.

The first drunk stands up, taps the second drunk on the shoulder and tells him, “You’ll never get out!”

He did.

Vocabulary Help

- leave (leave, left, left) – sair, partir
- shortcut – atalho
- through – através
- graveyard – cemitério
- rain – chuva
- dark – escuro
- fail – falhar
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver

- grave – sepultura, cova
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- climb out – escalar para sair
- deep – profunda
- dirt – terra
- mud – lama
- slippery – escorregadio
- give up – desistir
- spend (spend, spent, spent) – passar
- stand up – erguer-se, levantar-se
- tap – bater levemente
- shoulder – ombro
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, contar
- get out – sair

475

Kindergarten

On the last day of kindergarten, all the children brought presents for their teacher. The florist's son handed the teacher a gift.

She shook it, held it up and said, "I bet I know what it is: it's some flowers!"

"That's right!" shouted the little boy.

Then the candy store owner's daughter handed the teacher a gift. She held it up, shook it and said "I bet I know what it is: it's a box of candy!"

"That's right!" shouted the little girl.

The next gift was from the liquor store owner's son. The teacher held it up and saw that it was leaking. She touched a drop with her finger and tasted it. "Is it wine?" she asked.

"No," the boy answered.

The teacher touched another drop to her tongue. "Is it champagne?" she asked.

"No," the boy answered.

Finally, the teacher said, “I give up. What is it?”

The boy replied, “A puppy!”

Vocabulary Help

- kindergarten – jardim da infância
- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- son – filho
- gift – presente
- flower – flor
- shout – gritar
- candy store owner – dono da loja de doces
- daughter – filha
- hold (hold, held, held) up – levantar
- shake (shake, shook, shaken) – balançar, chacoalhar
- liquor store – loja de bebidas
- bet – apostar
- leak – vazar
- wine – vinho
- drop – gota
- puppy – cachorrinho

476

Interpretations

What they said:

What they meant:

You will be fortunate if you can get him to work for you.

(We certainly never succeeded)

There is no other employee with whom I can adequately compare him.

(Well, our rats aren't really employees...)

Success will never spoil him.

(Well, at least not MUCH more)

One usually comes away from him with a good feeling.

(And such a sigh of relief)

His dissertation is the sort of work you don't expect to see these days; in it he has definitely demonstrated his complete capabilities.

(And his IQ, as well)

He should go far.

(The farther the better)

He will take full advantage of his staff.

(He even has one of them mowing his lawn after work)

Vocabulary Help

- fortunate – sortudo, feliz
- succeed – conseguir
- employee – empregado
- spoil – estragar
- come away – deixá-lo
- good feeling – sentimento bom
- sigh of relief – suspiro de alívio
- the farther the better – quanto mais longe melhor
- staff – equipe
- mow the lawn – cortar a grama

477

Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of the world famous detective Sherlock Holmes, was not above telling tales about himself in which he was the laughing stock. Here is one of those stories.

As he tells it, he was waiting at a taxi stand outside the railway station in Paris.

When a taxi pulled up, he put his suitcase in it and got in himself. As he was about to tell the taxi driver where he wanted to go, the driver asked him: “Where can I take you, Mr Doyle?”

Doyle was flabbergasted. He asked the driver whether he knew him by sight.

The driver said: “No Sir, I have never seen you before.”

The puzzled Doyle asked him what made him think that he was Conan Doyle.

The driver replied: “This morning’s paper had a story about you being on vacation in Marseilles. This is the taxi stand where people who return from Marseilles always come to. Your skin colour tells me you have been on vacation. The ink spot on your right index finger suggests to me that you are a writer. Your clothing is very English, and not French. Adding up all those pieces of information, I deduce that you are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.”

Doyle said: “This is truly amazing. You are a real life counterpart to my fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes.”

“There is one other thing,” the driver said.

“What is that?”

“Your name is on the front of your suitcase.”

Vocabulary Help

- tales – histórias
- laughing stock – objeto de gozação, riso
- railway station – estação ferroviária
- flabbergasted – surpreso
- puzzled – surpreso, espantado
- skin – pele
- ink spot – marca de tinta
- clothing – vestuário
- amazing – surpreendente

478

Red-Tapism

Take a cage with apes. In the cage we hang a banana on a string, and put stairs under it. Before long an ape goes to the stairs towards the banana but as soon as it even touches the stairs, all apes are sprayed with water. After a while the same ape or another one makes another attempt with the same result: all apes

are sprayed. If later another ape tries to climb the stairs, the others will try to prevent it.

Now we take one ape from the cage and put in a new one. The new ape sees the banana, and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror all other apes attack him. After another attempt he knows: if he wants to climb the stairs, he is beaten up. Then we remove a second ape and replace it by another new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and gets beaten up. The previous new ape takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

A third old ape is replaced by a third new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and get beaten up as well. Two of the apes who beat him have no idea why you may not climb the stairs. We replace the fourth old ape and the fifth etc, until all apes which ones have been sprayed with water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever tries to climb the stairs.

“But, sir, why not?”

“Because that’s the way we do things here, lad.”

Vocabulary Help

- red-tapism – burocracia
- cage – jaula
- apes – macacos
- hang – pendurar
- string – barbante, corda
- stairs – escadas
- towards – na direção de
- as soon as – tão logo
- touch – tocar
- climb – subir
- prevent – impedir
- beat up – apanhar
- replace – substituir
- newcomer – recém chegado
- punishment – punição

Stupid Questions

A couple who have been married for 20 years is preparing for bed when the following conversation takes place.

She: “Honey, if I die before you, would you remarry?”

He: “That’s a morbid question!”

She: “No, I really want to know.”

He (pauses to think): “Yes, I suppose after a decent amount of time I might remarry.”

She: “Would she live in our house?”

He: “Well, the mortgage is almost paid off – would you really expect me to move?”

She: “Would she wear my mink coat?”

He: “You know I paid \$3, 500 for that coat – would you really want me to sell it for a loss?”

She: “Well, would she drive my BMW?”

He: “No. Absolutely not. She doesn’t know how to drive a stick shift!”

Vocabulary Help

- couple – casal
- married – casados
- bed – cama
- honey – querida
- die – morrer
- remarry – casar-se novamente
- amount of time – espaço de tempo
- mortgage – hipoteca
- paid off – paga
- move – mudar
- wear (wear, wore, worn) – usar
- coat – casaco

- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- loss – perda
- stick shift – carro com marcha

480

Nut Tree

There was a huge nut tree by the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts: “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me,” said one boy. The bucket was so full, several rolled out towards the fence.

Cycling down the road by the cemetery was a third boy. As he passed he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, “One for you, one for me. One for you.”

He knew what it was. ‘Oh my!!’ he shuddered, ‘It’s Satan and St Peter dividing the souls at the cemetery!’

He cycled down the road and found an old man with a cane, hobbling along. ‘Come quick!’ he said, ‘You won’t believe what I heard. Satan and St Peter are down at the cemetery dividing the souls.’

The man said, ‘Shoo, you brat! Can’t you see I’m finding it hard to walk as it is!’ After several pleas, the man hobbled to the cemetery and heard, One for you, one for me. One for you, one...’ The old man whispered, ‘Boy, you’ve been tellin’ the truth! Let’s see if we can see the Devil himself.’

Shivering with fear, they edged toward the fence, still unable to see anything, but they heard, “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me, and one last one for you. That’s all. Let’s go get those nuts by the fence, and we’ll be done.”

They say the old guy made it to town 10 minutes before the boy!

Vocabulary Help

- huge – enorme
- fence – cerca
- bucketful of nuts – balde cheio de nozes
- out of sight – fora do alcance da vista

- towards – na direção da
- slow down – diminuir a velocidade
- souls – almas
- shudder – estremecer
- believe – acreditar
- cane – bengala
- brat – moleque
- whisper – sussurrar
- truth – verdade
- make it to town – chegar à cidade

481

The Old Lady and the Cat

A poor little lonely old lady lived in a house with only her cat as a friend.

One day, the lights went out as she sat knitting; she had been unable to pay the electric bill.

So, she went up to the attic and got an old oil lamp from her childhood. As she rubbed it clean, a genie appeared and allowed her three wishes.

“First, I want to be so rich I never have to worry about money again.”

“Second, I want to be young and beautiful again.”

“And last, I want you to change my little cat into a handsome prince.”

— POOF – As the smoke cleared, she saw she was surrounded by big bags of coins, and that in the mirror was a young beautiful woman. She turned as the handsome prince walked in the door, held her in his arms and said:

“Now I’ll bet you’re sorry you took me to the vet for that little operation.”

Vocabulary Help

- lonely – solitária
- only – apenas
- go (go, went, gone) out – apagar
- knit – tricotar
- unable – incapaz

- bill – conta
- childhood – infância
- rub – esfregar
- allow – permitir
- worry – preocupar-se
- young – jovem
- again – novamente
- mirror – espelho
- change – transformar
- handsome – bonito
- smoke – fumaça
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- bet – apostar
- sorry – arrependido
- take (take, took, taken) – levar
- vet (veterinarian) – veterinário

482

The Angel and the Christmas Tree

People have wondered from time to time the reason for an angel on the top of the Christmas tree. It seems that one particular Christmas Santa was rushed and harried trying to get ready for his annual trip to deliver gifts to the world's children. He told Mrs Claus to wake him at 5 am and to have his breakfast ready with a lunch to take along. He then went to his workshop and told the elves to have all the presents packed in the sleigh and the reindeer harnessed at 5:30 am.

At 5:30 the following morning he awoke and jumped out of bed furious with Mrs Claus for not awakening him on time. His mood worsened when he realized she had fixed neither his breakfast nor his afternoon meal. Then he ran out to his sleigh only to find that the elves, drunk from partying all night, had no presents packed and the reindeer were running loose in the pasture. About this time a little angel walked by dragging a large Christmas tree.

Santa tried to ignore her since his mood was so foul but the angel spoke up and said, “Santa what should I do with this Christmas tree?”

And that is why there is an angel on the top of the Christmas tree.

Vocabulary Help

- wonder – imaginar
- from time to time – de tempos em tempos
- seem – parecer
- rush – pressa
- harry – atormentar, perturbar
- deliver – entregar
- gift – presente
- wake – acordar
- elf (elves) – duende (duendes)
- reindeer – rena
- harness – arrear
- jump – pular
- mood – humor
- sleigh – trenó
- loose – soltas
- drag – arrastar
- foul – terrível, ruim

483

At the Pet Shop

A parrot fancier who happened into a London pet shop noticed a particularly colorful bird and asked its price.

“Five thousand pounds,” the shop owner replied.

“Five thousand pounds?” the man asked. “Why so much?”

“Well, this bird speaks fluent Italian, Spanish and French, is brushing up on his German and starting to study English,” came the reply. “With the European Community’s unification, he’ll be a great asset.”

‘I don’t care about the Common Market,’ the parrot fancier said. ‘What about that gray one in that other cage?’

The gray one was 15, 000 pounds, he was told, because the bird spoke Arabic, Chinese, and Korean and was learning Japanese “the languages of the 21st century.”

‘I’m too old to worry about the 21st century,’ the frustrated parrot lover replied.

‘What about that mangy brown one up on that perch in the corner?’

The brown one, said the shopkeeper, was 25, 000 pounds.

‘Twenty-five thousand pounds!’ exclaimed the customer. ‘What does he do to be worth that?’

‘We’re not sure,’ the pet-shop owner replied ‘But the other two call him chairman’

Vocabulary Help

- parrot – papagaio
- fancier – admirador
- pet shop – loja de animais
- price – preço
- owner – proprietário
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- reply – resposta
- asset – propriedade de valor
- care – importar-se
- cage – gaiola
- worry – preocupar
- perch – poleiro
- worth – valor
- chairman – presidente

484

This is the Maid

A guy dials his home and a strange woman answers. The guy says, “Who is this?”

“This is the maid,” answers the woman.

“We don’t have a maid”, says the man.

The woman says, “I was hired this morning by the lady of the house.”

The man says, “Well, this is her husband. Is she there?”

The woman replies, “She is upstairs in the bed room with someone who I figured was her husband.”

The guy is fuming and says to the maid, “Listen, would you like to make \$50,000?”

The maid says, “What will I have to do?”

The man tells her, “I want you to get my gun from the desk, and shoot the witch and the jerk she’s with.”

The maid puts the phone down; the man hears footsteps and then two gun shots.

The maid comes back to the phone, “What do I do with the bodies?”

The man says, “Throw them in the swimming pool.”

Puzzled, the maid answers, “But you don’t have a pool.”

A long pause and the man says, “Is this 567-5309?”

Vocabulary Help

- dial – telefonar, discar
- maid – empregada
- hire – contratar
- upstairs – andar de cima
- fuming – furioso
- gun – revolver
- shoot – atirar
- witch – bruxa
- jerk – idiota
- bodies – corpos

- swimming pool – piscina

485

The Tortoise and the Eagle

A TORTOISE, lazily basking in the sun, complained to the sea-birds of her hard fate, that no one would teach her to fly.

An Eagle, hovering near, heard her lamentation and demanded what reward she would give him if he would take her aloft and float her in the air. ‘I will give you’, she said, ‘all the riches of the Red Sea. I will teach you to fly then’, said the Eagle; and taking her up in his talons he carried her almost to the clouds.

Suddenly he let her go, and she fell on a lofty mountain, dashing her shell to pieces.

The Tortoise exclaimed in the moment of death: “I have deserved my present fate; for what had I to do with wings and clouds, who can with difficulty move about on the earth?”

If men had all they wished, they would be often ruined.

Vocabulary Help

- lazily – preguiçosamente
- basking – aquecendo-se
- sun – sol
- complain – reclamar
- sea-bird – pássaro marítimo
- fate – destino
- fly (fly, flew, flown) – voar
- eagle – águia
- hover – planar, pairar
- reward – recompensa
- aloft – em cima
- talon – garras, unhas
- cloud – nuvem

- suddenly – subitamente
- let her go – soltou-a
- lofty – alta, grande, sublime
- mountain – montanha
- dashing – partindo
- fate – destino
- wing – asa

486

The Farmer and the Stork

A FARMER placed nets on his newly-sown plowlands and caught a number of Cranes, which came to pick up his seed. With them he trapped a Stork that had fractured his leg in the net and was earnestly beseeching the Farmer to spare his life.

“Pray save me, Master, he said, and let me go free this onc My broken limb should excite your pity. Besides, I am no Crane, I am a Stork, a bird of excellent character; and see how I love and slave for my father and mother. Look too, at my feathers, they are not the least like those of a Crane.

The Farmer laughed aloud and said, “It may be all as you say, I only know this: I have taken you with these robbers, the Cranes, and you must die in their company.”

Birds of a feather flock together.

Vocabulary Help

- farmer – fazendeiro
- net – rede
- newly-sown – recém-semeada
- plowland – campo arado
- catch (catch, caught, caught) – pegar, capturar
- pick up – pegar
- seed – semente
- trap – aprisionar

- stork – cegonha
- leg – perna
- beseech – implorar
- spare – poupar
- free – livre
- break (break, broke, broken) – quebrar
- limb – membro
- pity – pena
- slave – escravo
- robber – ladrão

487

The Pope

A man who smelled like a distillery flopped on a subway seat next to a priest. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes the disheveled guy turned to the priest and asked:

“Say, Father, what causes arthritis?”

“Mister, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, and a contempt for your fellow man.”

“Well, I'll be damned,” the drunk muttered, returning to his paper. The priest, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologized.

“I'm very sorry, I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?”

“I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does.”

Vocabulary Help

- smell – cheirar
- flop – despencar
- subway – metrô
- priest – padre

- tie – gravata
- stained – manchado
- plastered – embriagado
- red lipstick – batom vermelho
- torn coat pocket – bolso do colete rasgado
- newspaper – jornal
- disheveled – desarrumado
- loose living – vida desregrada
- wicked women – mulheres de baixo nível
- contempt – desprezo
- fellow man – próximo
- drunk – bêbado
- mutter – murmurar
- nudge – cutucar
- apologize – desculpar-se
- Pope – Papa

488

Acrobacies

George and his wife Martha were from Portland, Maine. Every year they went to the Portland Fair, and every year Stumpy said, “Martha, I’d like to get a ride in that airplane.”

And every year Martha would say, “I know, George, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars and ten dollars is ten dollars.”

So George says “Martha, I’m 71 years old, if I don’t go this time I may never go.”

Martha replies, “George, that airplane ride is ten dollars and ten dollars is ten dollars.”

So the pilot overhears them and says, “Folks, I’ll make you a deal. I’ll take you both up for a ride, and if you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say ONE word, I won’t charge you, but just one word and it’s ten dollars.”

They agree and up they go...

The pilot does all kinds of twists and turns rolls and dives, but not a word is heard; he does it one more time still nothing...

So he lands. He turns to George as they come to a stop and says:

“By golly, I did everything I could think of to make you cry out but you didn’t!”

And George replies, “Well, I was going to say something when Martha fell out..but ten dollars is ten dollars!”

Vocabulary Help

- ride in an airplane – passeio de avião
- overhear – ouvir
- folks – pessoal
- deal – acordo
- both – ambos
- charge – cobrar
- agree – concordar
- twists and turns – acrobacias, manobras com o avião
- land – aterrissar
- come to a stop – parar
- cry out – gritar
- fall out – cair

489

The Hare and the Tortoise

A HARE one day ridiculed the short feet and slow pace of the Tortoise, who replied, laughing: “Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in a race. The Hare, believing her assertion to be simply impossible, assented to the proposal; and they agreed that the Fox should choose the course and fix the goal. On the day appointed for the race the two started together.

The Tortoise never for a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course. The Hare, lying down by the wayside,

fell fast asleep. At last waking up, and moving as fast as he could, he saw the Tortoise had reached the goal, and was comfortably dozing after her fatigue.

Slow but steady wins the race.

Vocabulary Help

- hare – lebre
- slow pace – passo lento
- tortoise – tartaruga
- reply – resposta
- swift – ágil, veloz
- wind – vento
- beat (beat, beat, beaten) – vencer
- race – corrida
- assertion – afirmação
- assent – concordar
- proposal – proposta
- fox – raposa
- choose (choose, chose, chosen) – escolher
- course – curso, trajeto
- fix the goal – definir o objetivo, chegada
- together – juntos
- steady – firme, seguro
- straight – direto
- lie down – deitar
- wayside – beira da estrada
- asleep – adormecido
- wake up – acordar
- doze – cochilar

490

The Magician and the Parrot

So there's this magician working on a small cruise ship. He's been doing his

routines every night for a year or two now. The audiences appreciate him, and they change over often enough that he doesn't have to worry too much about new tricks.

However, there's this parrot who sits in the back row and watches him night after night, year after year. Finally, the parrot figures out how the tricks work and starts giving it away for the audience.

For example, when the magician makes a bouquet of flowers disappear, the parrot squawks "Behind his back! Behind his back!"

Well, the magician gets really annoyed at this, but he doesn't know what to do. The parrot belongs to the Captain, so he can't just kill it.

One day, the ship springs a leak and sinks. The magician manages to swim to a plank of wood floating by and grabs on.

The parrot is sitting on the other end of the plank. They just stare at each other and drift. They drift for 3 days and still don't speak.

On the morning of the fourth day, the parrot looks over at the magician and says: "OK, I give up. Where did you hide the ship?"

Vocabulary Help

- new tricks – novos truques
- parrot – papagaio
- back row – fileira de trás
- figure out – descobrir
- give away – denunciar, explicar o truque
- behind his back – atrás das costas dele
- annoyed – aborrecido
- belong – pertence
- leak – vazamento
- sink – afundar
- swim – nadar
- plank of wood – painel de madeira
- grab – agarrar
- stare – olhar fixamente
- drift – vagar

- look over at – olhar para
- give up – desistir
- hide – esconder

491

Consulting

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired.

Several years later his company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multi-million dollar machines.

They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine fixed but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer, happy with his retirement, reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine.

At the end of the day he marked a small x in chalk on a particular component of the machine and proudly stated, “This is where your problem is.” The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again.

The company received a bill for \$50, 000 from the engineer for his service. Accounting demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer responded briefly:

| One Chalk Mark | U\$ 1, 00 |

| Knowing where to put it | U\$ 49, 999.00 |

The bill was paid in full, and the engineer never had his retirement disturbed again.

Vocabulary Help

- gift – talento
- fix – consertar
- happily – alegremente
- retire – aposentar

- regarding – em relação a, a respeito de
- seemingly impossible problem – problema aparentemente impossível
- to no avail – não adiantou
- challenge – desafio
- chalk – giz
- proudly – orgulhosamente
- replace – substituir
- receive – receber
- bill – conta
- demand – exigir
- charges – cobrança
- retirement – repouso

492

Sleeping at Church

A man who went to church with his wife always fell asleep during the sermon. The wife decided to do something about this and one Sunday took a long hat pin along to poke him with it every time he would doze off. As the preacher got to a part in the sermon where he shouted out “...and who created all there is in 6 days and rested on the 7th.”

She poked her husband who came flying out of the pew and screamed, “Good God almighty!”

The minister said, “That’s right, that’s right.” and went on with his sermon. The man sat back down, muttering under his breath and later began to doze off again.

When the minister got to ‘...and who died on the cross to save us from our sins...’ the wife hit him again and he jumped up and shouted, ‘Jesus Christ.’

The minister said, “that’s right, that’s right” and went on with his sermon.

The man sat back down and began to watch his wife and when the minister got to ‘ ... and what did Eve say to Adam after the birth of their second child?’ the wife started to poke the husband again, but he jumped up and said, ‘If you stick that damn thing in me again, I’ll break it off!’

Vocabulary Help

- church – igreja
- fall asleep – adormecer
- wife – esposa
- pin – pino, agulha
- poke – cutucar
- doze off – cochilar
- preacher – pregador
- shout – gritar
- husband – marido
- scream – gritar
- mutter – resmungar
- die – morrer
- sin – pecado
- hit – bater, atingir
- birth – nascimento

493

Special Treatment

A husband had a doctor's appointment and asked his wife to accompany him. After the doctor thoroughly examined the husband, he spoke to the wife.

The doctor said, "Your husband has a life-threatening illness that needs special treatment and if he doesn't get it, he could die."

The wife replied, "What is it? What can I can do to help my husband recover?"

The doctor said:

- Every day you must make him a good breakfast and send him off to work in a pleasant frame of mind;
- Fix him a healthy lunch, when he comes home at noon and give him lots of peace and quiet;
- When he comes home at night, have a wonderful meal already prepared

with all of his favorite foods. Don't ever ask him to help with household chores and don't complain or upset him in any way;

- Make sure that he is sexually satisfied several times a week. In time your husband will be fully recovered if you follow each of these steps.

When the husband and wife were driving home, the husband turned to his wife and asked, "What did the doctor say to you about my checkup?"

"You're gonna die", she replied.

Vocabulary Help

- thoroughly – completo, detalhado
- life-threatening illness – doença grave, com risco de vida
- recover – recuperar
- noon – meio-dia
- household chores – tarefas da casa
- complain – reclamar
- upset – aborrecer
- die – morrer
- frame of mind – estado de espírito
- healthy – saudável
- lunch – almoço
- peace and quiet – paz e tranquilidade

494

At the Grocery Store

A rabbit walks into a grocery store on Wednesday and asks if they have any carrots for sale. The grocer tells him no, they will get some in on Monday.

The rabbit thanks him and walks out. On Thursday, the same rabbit walks in and asks the grocer if he has any carrots.

The grocer says "I told you yesterday, and I'll tell you today: We don't get any carrots in until MONDAY!" The rabbit thanks him and leaves.

On Friday the same rabbit walks in and asks the grocer if he has any carrots.

The grocer screams at him:

“LOOK! I told you yesterday, I told you the day before yesterday, and I’ll tell you today, WE DON’T GET ANY CARROTS IN UNTIL MONDAY!! If you come in here again asking for carrots BEFORE Monday, I’ll nail you ears to my counter!”

The rabbit thanks him and leaves.

On Saturday, the same rabbit walks in and asks the grocer:

“Do you have any nails?”

The grocer says no.

The rabbit says: “Good! Do you have any carrots?”

Vocabulary Help

- rabbit – coelho
- grocery store – mercearia
- carrot – cenoura
- sale – vender
- walk out – sair
- scream – gritar
- the day before yesterday – antes de ontem
- nail – pregar
- ear – orelha
- counter – balcão

495

Three Legged Chicken

John was driving his pickup down a country lane, when suddenly a chicken darts out into the road in front of him. He’s just about to slam on his brakes to avoid the chicken when he realizes that the chicken has sped on ahead doing about thirty miles per hour.

Amazed, he sped up to follow, but the chicken takes off faster and faster. Finally the chicken screeches into a turn and goes into a small farm. As he turns to follow, John notices that the chicken has THREE legs.

He pulls to a stop in front of the farm house, and looking around, notices that

ALL the chickens have three legs.

He says to the farmer, “THREE-legged chickens? That’s astounding!”

The Farmer replies “Yes, I bred them that way – I love drumsticks.”

John: “Well, tell me, how does a three legged chicken taste?”

Farmer: “I don’t know. I haven’t been able to catch one yet”

Vocabulary Help

- drive (drive, drove, driven) – dirigir
- country lane – estrada rural
- dart out – entrar rapidamente
- slam on his brakes – pisar no freio com força
- avoid – desviar, evitar
- chicken – galinha
- amazed – surpreso
- turn – curva
- notice – notar
- speed (speed, sped, sped) – acelerar
- pull to a stop – parar
- drumsticks – coxa de galinha
- taste – gosto
- catch – pegar
- able – capaz

496

No More Elephants

Q: What looks like an elephant and flies?

A: A flying elephant.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a grape and an elephant?

A: Grapes are purple.

Q: What’s the difference between an elephant and grass?

A: They’re both green, except the elephant.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a grape and an elephant if you're color-blind?

A: Dance on it for awhile. If you don't get any wine, it's an elephant.

Q: What did Hannibal say when he saw elephants coming over the hill?

A: "Look, there's elephants coming over the hill."

Q: What did he say when he saw elephants with sunglasses on, coming over the hill?

A: Nothing, he didn't recognize them.

Vocabulary Help

- look like – parecer
- fly – voar (também pode significar mosca)
- grapes – uvas
- purple – vermelho, roxo
- grass – grama
- both – ambos
- color-blind – daltônico
- awhile – por um certo tempo
- saw (see, saw, seen) – ver
- hill – colina
- sunglasses – óculos de sol
- fool – enganar
- disguise – disfarce

497

Jesus Doesn't Love Everyone

A burglar got into a house one night. Shining his flashlight on the floor in the dark, he heard a voice saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He looked around nervously, shook his head, and kept looking for valuables.

He again heard, "Jesus is watching you."

This time, he shone his light all over, and it rested on a parrot.

He asked, “Did you say that?”

The parrot admitted that he had. “I’m just trying to warn you, that’s all”

The burglar said, “Warn me, huh? Who are you? What’s your name?”

“Moses.”

“Well, what kind of stupid people would name a parrot ‘Moses?’”

The bird answered:

‘I don’t know; I guess the same folks who would name a Rottweiler Jesus.’”

Vocabulary Help

- burglar – ladrão
- shine – brilhar
- flashlight – lanterna
- dark – escuro
- look around – olhar em volta
- shake (shake, shook, shaken) – balançar
- keep looking – continuar olhando
- parrot – papagaio
- warn – advertir
- name a parrot – dar nome a um papagaio
- I guess – Eu acho
- folks – pessoas

498

Tips for Your Bosses

- Never give me work in the morning. Always wait until 4:00pm and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.
- If it’s really a “rush job”, run in and interrupt me every 10minutes to inquire how it’s going. That helps. Or even better, hover behind me, advising me at every keystroke.
- Always leave without telling anyone where you’re going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.

- Wait until my yearly review and THEN tell me what my goals SHOULD have been. Give me a mediocre performance rating with a cost of living increase. I'm not here for the money anyway.
- If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is the priority. I like being a psychic.
- Do your best to keep me late. I adore this office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do I have no life beyond work.
- If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. If that gets out, it could mean a promotion.
- If you don't like my work, tell everyone. I like my name to be popular in conversations. I was born to be whipped.
- If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done. No use confusing me with useful information.
- Never introduce me to the people you're with. I have no right to know anything. In the corporate food chain, I am plankton. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.
- Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate. I especially like the story about having to pay so much taxes on the bonus check you get.

Vocabulary Help

- deadline – prazo
- rush job – trabalho urgente
- keystroke – tecla digitada
- whipped – chicoteado, maltratado
- introduce – apresentar
- food chain – cadeia alimentar
- shrewd – inteligente, sagaz

499

Living and Learning

I made it a rule to forbear all direct contradictions to the sentiments of others, and all positive assertion of my own. I even forbade myself the use of every word or expression in the language that imported a fixed opinion, such as ‘certainly’, ‘undoubtedly’ etc. I adopted instead of them ‘I conceive’, ‘I apprehend’, or ‘I imagine’ a thing to be so or so; or ‘so it appears to me at present’.

When another asserted something that I thought an error, I denied myself the pleasure of contradicting him abruptly, and of showing him immediately some absurdity in his proposition. In answering I began by observing that in certain cases or circumstances his opinion would be right but in the present case there appeared or seemed to me some difference etc.

I soon found the advantage of this change in my manner; the conversations I engaged in went on more pleasantly. The modest way in which I proposed my opinions procured them a readier reception and less contradiction. I had less mortification when I was found to be in the wrong, and I more easily prevailed with others to give up their mistakes and join with me when I happened to be in the right.

Vocabulary Help

- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- rule – regra
- assertion – afirmativa
- own – próprio
- forbid (forbid, forbade, forbidden) – proibir
- undoubtedly – sem dúvida alguma
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- deny – negar
- begin (begin, began, begun) – começar
- soon – cedo, em breve
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- change – mudança
- engage – engajar
- less – menos
- prevail – prevalecer

- give up – desistir
- mistake – erro
- join – juntar, unir
- happen – acontecer

500

Good Health

One day an older fella was in for a checkup. After his examination his doctor was amazed.

Holy cow! Mr. Edwards, I must say that you are in the greatest shape of any 64-year-old I have ever examined!

Did I say I was 64?

Well, no, did I read your chart wrong?

Damn straight you did! I'm 85!

85!! Unbelievable! You would be in great shape if you were 25! How old was your father when he died?

Did I say he was dead?

You mean...

Damn straight! He's 106 and going strong!

My Lord! What a healthy family you must come from! How long did your grandfather live?

Did I say he was dead?

No! You can't mean...

Damn straight! He's 126, and getting married next week!

126! Truly amazing, Mr. Edwards. But gee, I wouldn't think a man would want to get married at that age!

Did I say he wanted to get married?...

Vocabulary Help

- amazed – surpreso
- Holy cow! – Puxa vida!

- shape – forma
- unbelievable – inacreditável
- die – morrer
- strong – forte
- healthy – saudável
- grandfather – avô
- get married – casar
- week – semana
- truly – verdadeiramente

501

Operation Cat Drop

In the early 1950s, the Dayak people in Borneo suffered from malaria. The World Health Organization had a solution: they sprayed large amounts of DDT to kill the mosquitoes which carried the malaria. The mosquitoes died, the malaria declined. So far, so good.

But there were “side effects.” Among the first was that the roofs of people’s houses began to fall down on their heads. It seemed that the DDT was also killing a parasitic wasp which had previously controlled thatch-eating caterpillars. Worse, the DDT-poisoned insects were eaten by geckoes, which were eaten by cats. The cats started to die, the rats flourished, and the people were threatened by outbreaks of sylvatic plague and typhus.

To cope with these problems, which it had itself created, the World Health Organization was obliged to parachute live cats into Borneo.

This is a true story.

Vocabulary Help

- suffer – sofrer
- amounts – quantidades
- kill – matar
- carry – transmitir
- die – morrer
- so far, so good – até aqui tudo bem

- side effects – efeitos colaterais
- among – entre
- roof – telhado
- caterpillars – lagartos
- thatch – telhado feito com vegetal (sapé)
- poison – envenenar
- geckoes – espécie de pássaro
- flourish – proliferar, florescer
- threaten – ameaçar
- outbreak – surto
- cope with – lidar com
- parachute live cats – enviar gatos por paraquedas

502

Mother Passed Away

A blonde goes into work one morning crying her eyes out. Her boss concerned about all his employees' well being, asked sympathetically "What's the matter?"

To which the blonde replies..."Early this morning I got a phone call saying that my mother had passed away."

The boss, feeling very sorry at this point, explains to the young girl.

"Why don't you go home for the day...we aren't terribly busy. Just take the day off to relax and rest."

The blonde very calmly states...

"No, I'd be better off here. I need to keep my mind off it and I have the best chance of doing that here."

The boss agrees and allows the blonde to work as usual... "If you need anything, just let me know."

Well, a few hours pass and the boss decides to check on the blonde. He looks out over his office and sees the blonde hysterically crying!!

He rushes out to her, asking, "What's so bad now... are you gonna be ok??"

‘No...’ exclaims the blonde. ‘I just got a call from my sister. She told me that HER mom died too!’

Vocabulary Help

- crying her eyes out – chorando copiosamente
- boss – chefe
- concerned – preocupado
- employee – empregado
- well being – bem-estar
- pass away – falecer
- busy – ocupado
- take the day off – tirar o dia de folga
- keep my mind off it – manter o meu pensamento longe disto
- rush out to her – correr na direção dela
- sister – irmã

503

The Pirate

A seaman meets a pirate in a bar, and talk about their adventures on the sea
The seaman notes that the pirate has a peg-leg, a hook, and an eye patch.

The seaman asks “So, how did you end up with the peg-leg?”

The pirate replies “We were in a storm at sea, and I was swept overboard into a school of sharks Just as my men were pulling me out, a shark bit my leg off.”

‘Wow!’ said the seaman. ‘What about the hook?’

‘Well...’, replied the pirate, ‘We were boarding an enemy ship and were battling the other sailors with swords. One of the enemies cut my hand off.’

‘Incredible!’ remarked the seaman. ‘How did you get the eye patch?’

“A seagull dropping fell into my eye”, replied the pirate.

“You lost your eye to a seagull dropping?” the sailor asked incredulously.

‘Well...’, said the pirate, ‘... it was my first day with the hook.’

Vocabulary Help

- seaman – homem do mar
- peg-leg – perna de pau
- hook – gancho
- eye-patch – tampão (do olho)
- how did you end up with – como você acabou
- swept overboard – jogado fora do barco
- school of sharks – cardume de tubarões
- bit my leg off – arrancou a minha perna
- board – abordar
- battle – batalha, lutar
- sword – espada
- cut my hand off – cortou minha mão
- seagull – gaivota
- dropping – fezes

504

Equal Opportunity

One day, a sign appeared in an office window

It read:

“Help wanted. Must type 70 words a minute. Must be computer literate. Must be bilingual. An equal opportunity employer.”

A dog ambling down the street saw the sign, walked in, and applied for the job.

The office manager said, “I can’t hire a dog for this job.”

The dog pointed to the line: “An equal opportunity employer.”

So the manager said, “Okay, take this letter and type it.”

The dog went off to the typewriter and returned a minute later with the finished letter, perfectly typed.

The manager said: “Here’s a problem. Write a computer program for it and run it.”

Fifteen minutes later, the dog came back with the correct answer.

The manager still wasn't convinced 'I can't hire a dog for this position,' he said 'You've got to be bilingual.'

The dog looked up at the manager and said, "Meow!"

Vocabulary Help

- sign – anúncio
- help wanted – precisa-se de empregado
- type – digitar
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- walk in – entrar
- apply for the job – candidatar-se ao emprego
- hire – contratar
- equal opportunity employer – empregador que oferece oportunidades iguais para todos
- meow – miau

505

Don't Rightly Know, Son

A father and son went fishing one day. Sitting in the boat for a couple of hours gave them not much to do, so the son started thinking about the world around him. He began to get curious so he asked his father some questions.

"How does this boat float?"

The father thought for a moment, then replied, "Don't rightly know, son."

The boy returned to his contemplation, but soon came up with another one, "How do fish breath underwater?"

Once again the father replied, "Don't rightly know, son."

A little later the boy asked his father, "Why is the sky blue?"

Again, the father replied. "Don't rightly know, son."

Worried he was going to annoy his father, he said, "Dad, do you mind my asking you all of these questions?"

His father immediately assured him, "Of course not, son. If you don't ask questions, you'll never learn anything!"

Vocabulary Help

- go fishing – ir pescar
- float – flutuar
- don't rightly know – não sei dizer
- soon – logo em seguida
- come up with another one – vir com outra
- fish – peixe
- breathe – respirar
- underwater – debaixo d'água
- sky – céu
- annoy – aborrecer
- do you mind – você se incomoda
- assure – garantir, assegurar
- learn – aprender

506

Customer Service in Action

An award should go to the United Airlines gate agent in Denver for being smart and funny, and making her point, when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo.

During the final days at Denver's old Stapleton airport, a crowded United flight was canceled.

A single agent was rebooking a long line of inconvenienced travelers. Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS."

The agent replied, "I'm sorry, Sir. I'll be happy to try to help you but I've got to help these folks first, and I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "Do you have any idea who I am?" Without hesitating, the gate agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone.

"May I have your attention please?" she began, her voice bellowing throughout

the terminal. “We have a passenger here at the gate WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to the gate.”

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the United agent, gritted his teeth and swore “F. you.”

Without flinching, she smiled and said, “I’m sorry, sir, but you’ll have to stand in line for that too.”

The man retreated as the people in the terminal applauded loudly. Although the flight was canceled and people were late, they were no longer angry at United.

Vocabulary Help

- award – prêmio
- smart – inteligente
- funny – engraçada
- fly as cargo – voar como carga
- crowded – lotado
- flight – voo
- suddenly – subitamente
- angry – nervoso
- bellow – gritar
- laugh – rir
- swear (swear, swore, sworn) – xingar
- smile – sorrir

507

Didn’t Do It!

One day a man comes home from work to find total mayhem at home. The kids were outside still in their pajamas playing in the mud and muck. There were empty food boxes and wrappers all around

As he proceeded into the house, he found an even bigger mess. Dishes on the counter, dog food spilled on the floor, a broken glass under the table, and a small pile of sand by the back door.

The family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing and a lamp had been knocked over. He headed up the stairs, stepping over toys, to look for his wife. He was becoming worried that she may be ill or that something had happened to her.

He found her in the bedroom, still in bed with her pajamas on, reading a book. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went.

He looked at her bewildered and asked, “What happened here today?”

She again smiled and answered, “You know everyday when you come home from work and ask me what I did today?”

“Yes,” was his reply.

She answered, “Well, today I didn’t do it!”

Vocabulary Help

- mayhem – catástrofe, desastre, situação caótica
- mud – lama
- muck – sujeira
- mess – confusão
- dishes – pratos
- strewn – espalhados
- toys – brinquedos
- clothing – vestuário
- sand – areia
- look for – procurar
- ill – doente
- bewildered – surpreso
- smile – sorrir

508

New Skin

A married couple was in a terrible accident where the woman’s face was severely burned. The doctor told the husband that they couldn’t graft any skin from her body because she was too skinny. So the husband offered to donate

some of his own skin.

However, the only skin on his body that the doctor felt was suitable would have to come from his buttocks. The husband and wife agreed that they would tell no one about where the skin came from, and requested that the doctor also honor their secret. After all, this was a very delicate matter.

After the surgery was completed, everyone was astounded at the woman's new beauty. She looked more beautiful than she ever had before! All her friends and relatives just went on and on about her youthful beauty!

One day, she was alone with her husband, and she was overcome with emotion at his sacrifice. She said, "Dear, I just want to thank you for everything you did for me. There is no way I could ever repay you."

"My darling," he replied, "I get all the thanks I need every time I see your mother kiss you on the cheek."

Vocabulary Help

- burn – queimar
- skinny – magra
- skin – pele
- however – entretanto
- suitable – adequada
- buttocks – nádegas
- astounded – surpresos
- beauty – beleza
- relatives – parentes
- overcome with emotion – subjugada pela emoção
- repay – pagar, compensar
- kiss – beijar
- cheek – bochechas

509

Paybacks

A man took his pregnant wife to the hospital to give birth. The doctor told

them that they'd developed a new machine, and asked if the couple would like to try it out. The machine could take some of the pain of childbirth from the mother and give it to the father to ease the mother's burden.

Well, they thought that was a good idea, and decided to give it a try. The doctor initially set the machine on 10 percent, telling the man that even 10 percent was probably more pain than he'd ever experienced. But the husband was surprised at how little pain he was feeling, and asked the doctor to raise the level.

The doctor increased it to 20 percent, and the man still felt fine. He raised it to 50 – and finally 100 percent. After it was all over the man stood up, and stretched a little.

Both he and his wife felt fine, and they shortly left the hospital to take the baby home.

It was then that they found the mailman dead on their doorstep.

Vocabulary Help

- pregnant – grávida
- give birth – dar a luz
- develop – desenvolver
- try out – testar, experimentar
- pain – dor
- childbirth – parto
- burden – carga
- raise – subir
- level – nível
- to be over – acabar
- stand up – ficar de pé
- stretch – esticar, espreguiçar
- mailman – carteiro
- dead – morto

510

Memory Problems

Grandma and Grandpa are sitting there watching TV when Grandpa decides he's hungry for some ice cream.

“Hey, Grandma – I’m going to the kitchen and get myself a dish of ice cream. You want I should get you some, too?”

“Sure, Grandpa, sounds good. But you better write down what you’re going out there for or else you’ll forget” replies Grandma.

‘I will not!’ retorts Grandpa. ‘In fact, tell me what you want on it and I’ll show you I can remember that, too.’

‘OK,’ says Grandma, ‘I’ll have some chocolate sauce. But you’re going to forget...’

Grandpa heads out to the kitchen and disappears for about 20 or 30 minutes, accompanied by a cacophonous banging of pots and pans.

Finally he emerges, carrying a plate of scrambled eggs.

“See there, Grandpa. I told you you’d forget!” chides Grandma.

“What do you mean, ‘forget, ‘ Grandma? What did I forget?” demands Grandpa.

‘You fool,’ says Grandma. ‘You forgot my bacon!’

Vocabulary Help

- hungry – faminto
- ice cream – sorvete
- dish – prato
- sure – certamente
- sounds good – parece bom
- write down – escrever
- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer
- retort – responder
- heads out – ir em direção a
- fool – tolo
- scrambled eggs – ovos mexidos

Essay on Youth and Age

Young men are fitter to invent than to judge; fitter for execution than for counsel; and fitter for new projects than for settled business.

For the experience of age, in things that fall within the compass of it directeth them; but in new things, abuseth them.

The errors of young men are the ruin of business; but the errors of aged men amount but to this, that more might have been done, or sooner.

Young men, in the conduct and management of actions, embrace more than they can hold; stir more than they can quiet; fly to the end, without consideration of the means and degrees; pursue some few principles which they have chanced upon absurdly; care not how they innovate, which draws unknown inconveniences; and, that which doubleth all errors, will not acknowledge or retract them; like an unready horse, that will neither stop nor turn.

Men of age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little repent too soon, and seldom drive business home to the full period but content themselves with a mediocrity of success.

Certainly, it is good to compound employments of both... because the virtues of either age may correct the defects of both

Francis Bacon, "Essay on Youth and Age"

Vocabulary Help

- fitter – mais adequados a
- judge – julgar
- counsel – aconselhar
- settled – estabelecido, consolidado
- business – negócio
- fall – cair
- embrace – abraçar
- hold – segurar
- stir – agitar
- fly – voar
- means – meios

- pursue – perseguir
- care – importar-se
- draws – atrair

512

The Two Cannibals

Two cannibals, a father and son, were elected by the tribe to go out and get something to eat. They walked deep into the jungle and waited by a path.

Before long, along came a little old man. The son said, “Oh dad, there’s one.”

‘No,’ said the father. ‘There’s not enough meat on that one to even feed the dogs. We’ll just wait.’

Well, a little while later, along came a really fat man.

The son said, “Hey dad, he’s plenty big enough.”

‘No,’ the father said. ‘We’d all die of a heart attack from the fat in that one. We’ll just wait.’

About an hour later, there came this absolutely gorgeous woman.

The son said, “Now there’s nothing wrong with that one dad. Let’s eat her.”

‘No,’ said the father. ‘We’ll not eat her either.’

“Why not?” asked the son.

“Because we’re going to take her back alive, and eat your mother.”

Vocabulary Help

- father – pai
- son – filho
- go out – sair
- jungle – floresta
- enough meat – carne suficiente
- feed – alimentar
- wait – esperar
- fat – gordo, gordura
- plenty big – bastante grande

- heart attack – ataque do coração
- gorgeous – maravilhosa, fantástica
- wrong – errado
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer
- take her back – levá-la de volta
- alive – viva
- mother – mãe

513

The Worst Car Hire Service

When David Schwartz left university in 1972, he set up Rent-a-wreck as a joke. Being a natural prankster, he acquired a fleet of beat-up shabby, wreckages waiting for the scrap heap in California.

He put on a cap and looked forward to watching people's faces as he conducted them round the choice of bumperless, dented junkmobiles.

To his lasting surprise there was an insatiable demand for them and he now has 26 thriving branches all over America. "People like driving round in the worst cars available," he said. Of course they do.

'If a driver damages the side of a car and is honest enough to admit it, I tell him, Forget it'. If they bring a car back late we overlook it. If they've had a crash and it doesn't involve another vehicle we might overlook that too."

"Where's the ashtray?" asked a Los Angeles wife, as she settled into the ripped interior.

'Honey," said her husband, 'the whole car's the ashtray."

Stephen Pile, "The Book of Heroic Failures"

Vocabulary Help

- rent a wreck – alugue um carro realmente ruim
- joke – piada
- prankster – piadista, que gosta de pregar peças
- fleet – frota
- beat-up – estragados

- scrap heap – ferro velho
- insatiable – insaciável
- demand – demanda
- thriving – próspero
- branches – filiais
- damage – danificar
- overlook – ignorar
- ashtray – cinzeiro
- ripped interior – interior do carro todo danificado, rasgado

514

Waiting for the Train

A man had to attend a large convention in Chicago. On this particular trip he decided to bring his wife. When they arrived at their hotel and were shown to their room, the man said:

“You rest here while I register – I’ll be back within an hour.”

The wife lies down on the bed... just then, an elevated train passes by very close to the window and shakes the room so hard she’s thrown out of the bed.

Thinking this must be a freak occurrence, she lies down once more. Again a train shakes the room so violently, she’s pitched to the floor. Exasperated, she calls the front desk, asks for the manager.

The manager says he’ll be right up.

The manager (naturally) is skeptical but the wife insists the story is true.

“Look, lie here on the bed – you’ll be thrown right to the floor!”

So he lies down next to the wife. Just then the husband walks in.

“What,” he says, ‘are you doing here?’”

The manager replies:

“Would you believe I’m waiting for a train?”

Vocabulary Help

- attend – participar
- trip – viagem

- bring (bring, brought, brought) – trazer
- wife – esposa
- arrive – chegar
- rest – descansar
- register – registrar
- be back – estar de volta
- lie down – deitar
- close – próximo
- shake – sacudir
- thrown out – jogada fora
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- freak – fora do normal
- pitched to – jogada
- front desk – recepção
- manager – gerente
- skeptical – cético
- believe – acreditar

515

Pigs

A farmer decides that his three sows should be bred, and contacts his buddy down the road, who owns three male pigs.

They agree on a fee, and the farmer puts the sows in his pickup and brings them down the road to the males. He leaves them all day, and when he picks them up that night, asks the man how he can tell if it ‘took’ or not.

The breeder replies that if, the next morning, the sows were grazing on grass, they were pregnant, but if they were rolling in the mud as usual they probably weren’t...

Comes the morning, the sows are rolling in the mud as usual, so the farmer puts them in the truck and brings them back for a second full day of frolic. This continues for a week, since each morning the sows are rolling in the mud.

About the sixth day, the farmer wakes up and tells his wife, “I don’t have the

heart to look again. This is getting ridiculous, AND expensive. You check today.” With that, the wife peeks out the bedroom window and starts to laugh.

‘What is it?’ asks the farmer excitedly. ‘Are they grazing at last?’

‘No.’ says the wife. ‘Two of them are jumping up and down in the back of your truck, and the other one is honking the horn!’

Vocabulary Help

- sow – porca
- buddy – amigo
- own – possuir
- male – macho
- agree – concordar
- fee – taxa
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar, partir
- since – desde que
- pick them up – pegá-las
- breeder – reprodutor
- grazing on grass – pastando na grama
- pregnant – grávida
- rolling in the mud – rolando na lama
- frolic – farra
- wake up – acordar
- peek out – dar uma olhada lá fora
- jump up and down – pular para cima e para baixo
- honk the horn – apertar a buzina

516

Standard Phrases for Academic Appraisal

Productive researcher: Publishes students’ work under own name.

Prolific writer: Publishes identical article in different journals.

Research oriented: Can’t teach.

Teaching oriented: Can’t research.

Loyal: Unemployable elsewhere.

Conscientious: Appears on campus more than three times a week.

Charismatic: Gives frequent TV interviews.

Exceptionally well qualified: Has a degree from the same university as the dean.

Committed to the university: Appears at every cocktail party.

Slightly below average: Hopeless.

Listens well: Has no original ideas.

Shows great promise: Is related to the dean.

Internationally recognized: Likes to go to conferences.

Active socially: Drinks a lot.

Career minded: Buys drinks for the dean.

Remarkably intelligent: Listens without yawning.

Regular attendance: Can't find work as a consultant and/or unhappy home life.

Visionary: Can't handle paperwork.

Qualifies for salary increase: Still breathing.

Popular with students: Finishes lectures early, drinks at pub, never fails anyone.

Very popular with students: Does all three.

Vocabulary Help

- own name – seu próprio nome
- research – pesquisar
- unemployable elsewhere – não consegue achar emprego em outro lugar
- degree – diploma

517

Useless Inventions

- A pedal powered wheelchair
- A black highlighter pen

- Glow in the dark sunglasses
- Non-stick cellotape
- Solar powered flash light
- Waterproof sponge
- Waterproof teabags
- Inflatable anchor
- Inflatable dartboard
- Seatbelts for motorbikes
- Silent alarm clock
- AC adapter for solar powered calculators
- Battery powered battery charger
- Braille drivers manual
- Double-sided playing cards
- Ejector seats for helicopters
- Fireproof matches
- Fireproof cigarettes
- Smooth sandpaper
- Hand-powered chainsaw

Vocabulary Help

- wheelchair – cadeira de rodas
- glow – brilhar
- sunglasses – óculos de sol
- flash light – lanterna
- waterproof – à prova d'água
- teabags – saquinhos de chá
- anchor – âncora
- seatbelt – cinto de segurança
- battery charger – carregador de bateria
- double-sided – de dois lados

- fireproof – à prova de fogo
- smooth – liso
- sandpaper – lixa
- chainsaw – serra elétrica

518

Sex Pills

“Doc, you’ve gotta help me! My wife just isn’t interested in sex anymore. Haven’t you got a pill or something I can give her?”

“Look, I can’t prescribe...”

“Doc, we’ve been friends for years. Have you ever seen me this upset? I am desperate! I can’t think; I can’t concentrate; my life is going utterly to hell! You’ve got to help me.”

The doctor opens his desk drawer and removes a small bottle of pills.

“Ordinarily, I wouldn’t do this. These are experimental; the tests so far indicate that they’re VERY powerful. Don’t give her more than ONE. Understand? Just ONE.”

“I don’t know, doc, she’s awfully cold...”

“One. No more. In her coffee. Okay?”

“Um... Okay.”

The guy expresses gratitude and leaves for home, where his wife has dinner waiting.

When dinner is finished, she goes to the kitchen to bring dessert. The man hastily pulls the pills from his pocket and drops one into his wife’s coffee. He reflects for a moment, hesitates, then drops in a second pill. And then he begins to worry. The doctor did say they were powerful. Then inspiration strikes. He drops one pill into his own coffee. His wife returns with the shortcake and they enjoy their dessert and coffee.

Sure enough, a few minutes after they finish, his wife shudders a little, sighs deeply and heavily, and a strange look comes over her. In a near whisper and a tone of voice he has never heard her use before, she says “I... need... a man...”

His eyes glitter and his hands tremble as he replies, “Me... too...”

Vocabulary Help

- awfully – terrivelmente
- dessert – sobremesa
- worry – preocupar
- drop – colocar
- shudder – tremer
- sigh – suspirar
- deeply – profundamente
- whisper – suspiro
- glitter – brilhar

519

Fences

A slightly more than middle-aged couple were out for a drive through the countryside. They reach a familiar spot in the road, and the wife says “Sweetheart, let’s do the same thing we did here forty years ago!”

The husband stops the car. His wife backs against the fence, and he immediately jumps her like a bass on a june bug. They make love like never before. She was SCREAMING, and GYRATING, and SHAKING uncontrollably. When it was all over, much to her husband’s surprise, she passed out cold.

After he had revived her, and got her back into the car, the husband quite astounded, says:

“Darling, you sure never moved like that forty years ago... or any time since that I can remember.”

The woman, gasping for breath, finally able to speak, says: “Honey forty years ago that fence wasn’t ELECTRIFIED!”

Vocabulary Help

- fences – cercas
- middle-aged – de meia-idade

- couple – casal
- drive – passeio de carro
- countryside – campo, região rural
- familiar spot – local familiar
- jump – pular
- scream – gritar
- shake – sacudir
- all over – acabado
- pass out – desmaiar
- astounded – surpreso
- gasp for breath – tentar respirar
- forty years ago – quarenta anos atrás

520

Good For Your Quiet Time!

A man came into a shop with a ‘Salesman Wanted’ sign in a window. He went up to the owner and said, ‘I-I-I w-w-waannn-t the j-jooooob-b.’

“I don’t know if this job would suit you because of your speaking impediment,” said the owner.

“I h-h-havvve a w-wi-wiiife and s-s-s-six k-kkkids, iiiii-I re-really neeeded thi-thi-this j-j-job!” said the man.

“OK. Here are three Bibles. Go out and sell them,” said the owner.

So the man went out and came back an hour later. ‘H-here-sss your m-m-money,’ said the man. The owner was impressed, so he gave the man a dozen more Bibles and sent him out. The man came back in two hours and said, ‘Here-ssss y-yooour m-m-money.’”

The owner said, “This is fantastic. You sold more Bibles in three hours than anyone has sold in a week. Tell me, what do you say to the people when they come to the door?”

‘W-welllll,’ said the man, ‘I r-r-ring the d-door bell, a-a-and s-s-say:’H-Hel-Hello, M-m-maaaaddam, d-d-do you w-w- want t-t t-to buy thi-thi-this B-B-Bible, ooooo d-d-do y-you w-w-want m’me t-toooo read it t-t-t-t-to you?’”

Vocabulary Help

- salesmen wanted – precisa-se de vendedores
- owner – proprietário
- suit you – ser adequado a você
- speech impediment – problema de fala
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- dozen – uma dúzia
- week – semana
- ring the doorbell – tocar a campainha

521

The Father and His Sons

A FATHER had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion; and for this purpose he one day told them to bring him a bundle of sticks.

When they had done so, he placed the faggot into the hands of each of them in succession and ordered them to break it in pieces. They tried with all their strength and were not able to do it. He next opened the faggot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons hands, upon which they broke them easily. He then addressed them in these words:

“My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this faggot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks

Vocabulary Help

- father – pai
- sons – filhos
- quarrel – briga, disputa
- fail – falhar
- heal – curar
- give (give, gave, given) – dar
- evils – males

- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, contar
- bundle of sticks – punhado de gravetos
- faggot – feixe
- enemy – inimigo
- break (break, broke, broken) – quebrar
- strength – força
- take (take, took, taken) – tomar, pegar
- again – novamente
- uninjured – ileso

522

Grandpa and Grandma

Grandpa and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about “the good old days,” when Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, ‘Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?’ Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his.

With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, “Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you’d sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?” Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek.

Growing bolder still, Grandma said, ‘Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you’d kind of nibble on my ear?’ Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said ‘Honey, where are you going?’

Grandpa replied, “To get my teeth!”

Vocabulary Help

- porch rockers – cadeiras de balanço na varanda
- sunset – pôr-do-sol
- reminisce – lembrar, recordar
- date – namorar
- aged hand – mão envelhecida

- press a little farther – ir mais longe
- engaged – noivos
- cheek – bochecha
- wrinkled – enrugado
- bolder – mais ousado
- nibble – lamber
- get up – levantar
- honey – querido

523

Ice Fishing

A Texan wanted to go ice fishing. He'd seen many books on the subject and finally, after getting all the necessary "tools" together, he made for the nearest frozen lake.

After positioning his comfy footstool he started to make a circular cut in the ice

Suddenly – from the sky – a voice boomed, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!" Startled, the Texan moved further down the ice, poured a Thermos of cappuccino, began to cut yet another hole. Again, from the heavens the voice bellowed, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"

The Texan, now quite worried, moved way down to the opposite end of the ice, sat up his stool, and tried again to cut his hole.

The voice came once more: "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"

He stopped, looked skyward, and said, "Is that you, LORD?"

The voice replied, "No, I'm the Ice-Arena Manager!"

Vocabulary Help

- ice fishing – pesca no gelo
- subject – assunto
- tools – ferramentas, apetrechos
- frozen lake – lago congelado
- suddenly – subitamente

- startled – surpreso
- hole – buraco
- heavens – céus
- bellow – gritar
- stool – tamborete
- skyward – na direção do céu
- Lord – Deus
- ice-arena manager – gerente do rink de patinação

524

Lawyers In Heaven

A very good man dies, and as a reward for a life well-spent, goes to heaven. When he arrives, St Peter meets him at the gate.

“Welcome,” says St Peter, “since you were such a good person in life you may enter heaven.”

“Thank you,” said the man. “But before I come in, could you tell me what kind of other people are here?”

“Well, all kinds,” replied St Peter.

“Are there any convicted criminals in heaven?” asked the man.

“Yes, some,” said St Peter.

“Are there any communists in heaven?” asked the man.

“Yes, there are,” replied St Peter.

“Are there any Nazis in heaven?” asked the man.

“Just a few,” said St Peter.

“Well, are there any lawyers in heaven?” asked the man. St Peter replied “What, and ruin it for everyone else?”

Vocabulary Help

- die – morrer
- reward – recompensa
- life well-spent – vida bem vivida

- heaven – paraíso
- arrive – chegar
- gate – portal
- convicted criminals – criminosos condenados
- Nazis – Nazistas
- lawyer – advogado

525

The Facts of Life

The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.

Paranoids are people, too; they have their own problems. It's easy to criticize, but if everybody hated you, you'd be paranoid, too.

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.

Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by moving from where you left them to where you can't find them.

Law of Probability Dispersal: Whatever it is that hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.

Vocabulary Help

- average – média
- beauty – beleza
- brains – cérebros
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- own – próprios
- hate – odiar
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer
- hell – inferno
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- happy – feliz
- clothes – roupas

- naked – nu
- leave (leave, left, left) – deixar
- dispersal – dispersão
- hit – atingir
- fan – ventilador
- evenly distributed – distribuído igualmente

526

The Telephone Man

A telephone man joined the Army. As part of his basic training, he went out on the rifle range. He fired 99 shots at the target, and missed the target with every shot!

His drill instructor tried to find out why.

‘What’s the matter with you?’ asked the instructor. ‘Why can’t you hit the target? What were you in civilian life?’

‘I was a telephone man,’ replied the new recruit, ‘and I don’t know why I can’t hit the target. Let me see...’

The telephone man checked his rifle, checked his rifle again, and checked his rifle a third time. He then put his finger in front of the muzzle, pulled the trigger, and blew the end of his finger off!

‘Well,’ the phone man said, writhing in pain, ‘the bullets are leaving here fine. The trouble must be on the other end!’

Vocabulary Help

- join the army – alistar-se no exército
- rifle range – prática de tiro ao alvo
- target – alvo
- miss – errar
- shot – tiro
- try – tentar
- find out – descobrir
- civilian life – vida civil

- reply – responder
- let me see – deixe-me ver
- muzzle – boca (do rifle)
- trigger – gatilho
- blow (blow, blew, blown) – arrebentar, estourar
- writh – contorcer
- pain – dor

527

Marriage Humor

A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished.

G.B. SHAW

Marriage is like a cage; one sees the birds outside desperate to get in and those inside desperate to get out.

MONTAIGNE

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin; they can't face each other, but still they stay together.

HEMANT JOSHI

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher... and that is a good thing for any man.

SOCRATES

Vocabulary Help

- marriage – casamento
- cage – gaiola
- bird – pássaro
- outside – do lado de fora
- get in – entrar
- inside – do lado de dentro
- get out – sair
- sides – lados
- coin – moeda

- stay – ficar
- together – juntos
- happy – feliz

528

Bats

Two vampire bats wake up in the middle of the night, thirsty for blood.

One says, “Let’s fly out of the cave and get some blood.”

“We’re new here,” says the second one.

“It’s dark out, and we don’t know where to look. We’d better wait until the other bats go with us.”

The first bat replies, “Who needs them? I can find some blood somewhere.”

He flies out of the cave.

When he returns, he is covered with blood.

The second bat says excitedly, “Where did you get the blood?”

The first bat takes his buddy to the mouth of the cave. Pointing into the night, he asks:

“See that black building over there?”

“Yes,” the other bat answers.

“Well,” says the first bat, ‘I didn’t.’”

Vocabulary Help

- bat – morcego
- wake up – acordar
- thirsty – sedento, com sede
- blood – sangue
- fly (fly, flew, flown) – voar
- dark – escuro
- wait – esperar
- need – precisar, necessitar
- buddy – amigo

- black building – prédio negro

529

Blondes

A blonde was down on her luck. In order to raise some money, she decided to kidnap a kid and hold him for ransom.

She went to the playground, grabbed a kid, took him behind a tree and told him, “I’ve kidnapped you.”

She then wrote a note saying:

“I’ve kidnapped your kid. Tomorrow morning, put \$10, 000 in a paper bag and put it under the pecan tree next to the slide on the north side of the playground.

Signed, A Blonde.”

The blonde then pinned the note to the kid’s shirt and sent him home to show it to his parents.

The next morning the blonde checked, and sure enough, a paper bag was sitting beneath the pecan tree.

The blonde opened the bag and found the \$10, 000 with a note that said “How could you do this to a fellow blonde?”

Vocabulary Help

- Down on her luck – sem sorte
- raise – conseguir, levantar (dinheiro)
- kidnap – sequestrar
- ransom – resgate
- grab – agarrar
- kid – criança
- tree – árvore
- slide – escorregador
- pin – pregar, fixar
- shirt – camisa
- fellow blonde – colega loura

Debbie's Pregnant

A woman takes her 16-year-old daughter to the doctor. The doctor says, "Okay, Mrs Jones, what's the problem?"

The mother says, "It's my daughter, Debbie. She keeps getting these cravings, she's putting on weight, and is sick most mornings."

The doctor gives Debbie a good examination, then turns to the mother and says, "Well, I don't know how to tell you this, but your Debbie is pregnant – about 4 months, would be my guess."

The mother says, "Pregnant?! She can't be, she has never ever been left alone with a man! Have you, Debbie?"

Debbie says, "No mother! I've never even kissed a man!"

The doctor walked over to the window and just stares out of it. About five minutes pass and finally the mother says:

"Is there something wrong out there doctor?"

The doctor replies, "No, not really, it's just that the last time anything like this happened, a star appeared in the east and three wise men came over the hill. I'll be darned if I'm going to miss it!"

Vocabulary Help

- pregnant – grávida
- cravings – desejos
- put on weight – engordar
- sick – enjoada
- guess – estimativa
- left alone – deixada a sós
- kiss – beijar
- stare out of it – olhar para fora
- wise – sábio
- hill – colina
- miss – perder

At the Hotel

A tired traveler pulls into a hotel around midnight. Very tired after a long day's trip, he asks the clerk for a single room. As the clerk fills out the paperwork, the man looks around and sees a gorgeous blonde sitting in the lobby.

He tells the clerk to wait while he disappears into the lobby. After a minute he comes back, with the girl on his arm.

'Fancy meeting my wife here,' he says to the clerk. 'Guess I'll need a double room for the night.'

Next morning, he comes to settle his bill, and finds the amount to be over \$3.000.

'What's the meaning of this?' he yells at the clerk. 'I've only been here one night!'

'Yes,' says the clerk, 'but your wife has been here for three weeks.'

Vocabulary Help

- traveler – viajante
- around – por volta de
- midnight – meia-noite
- tired – cansado
- trip – viagem
- single room – quarto de solteiro
- fill out – preencher
- gorgeous – linda, maravilhosa
- fancy meeting my wife – imagine encontrar minha esposa
- settle his bill – pagar sua conta
- find (find, found, found) – encontrar
- amount – total
- meaning – significado
- yell – gritar
- week – semana

532

The Well

An Arab diplomat visiting the U.S. for the first time was being wined and dined by the State Department.

The Grand Emir was unused to the salt in American foods (French fries, cheeses etc.), and was constantly sending his manservant Abdul to fetch him a glass of water.

Time and time again Abdul would scamper off and return with a glass of water, but then came the time when he returned empty-handed.

“Abdul, you son of an ugly camel, where is my water?” demanded the Grand Emir.

“A thousand pardons, O Illustrious One,” stammered the wretched Abdul. “There is a white man sitting on the well.”

Vocabulary Help

- first time – primeira vez
- unused to – desacostumado
- salt – sal
- food – comida
- French fries – batatas fritas
- cheese – queijo
- send (send, sent, sent) – enviar
- fetch – buscar
- glass of water – copo de água
- stammer – gaguejar
- demand – exigir
- wretched – pobre, miserável
- come (come, came, came) – vir, chegar
- empty-handed – de mãos vazias
- thousand – mil

533

The Accident

The following is a courtroom exchange between a defense attorney and a farmer with a bodily injury claim. It came from a Houston, Texas insurance agent.

Attorney: “At the scene of the accident, did you tell the constable you had never felt better in your life?”

Farmer: “That’s right.”

Attorney: “Well, then, how is it that you are now claiming you were seriously injured when my client’s auto hit your wagon?”

Farmer: “When the constable arrived, he went over to my horse, who had a broken leg, and shot him. Then he went over to Rover, my dog, who was in a terrible state, and shot him. When he asked me how I felt, I just thought under the circumstances, it was a wise choice of words to say I’ve never felt better in my life.”

Vocabulary Help

- courtroom – corte
- exchange – diálogo
- defense attorney – advogado de defesa
- bodily injury claim – ação de danos físicos
- constable – policial
- feel (feel, felt, felt) – sentir
- injured – ferido
- wagon – caminhonete
- horse – cavalo
- broken leg – perna quebrada
- shot him – matou-o com um tiro
- dog – cachorro
- wise choice – escolha sábia

534

Bad Flight

This is Captain Sinclair speaking. On behalf of my crew I'd like to welcome you aboard British Airways flight 602 from New York to London. We are currently flying at a height of 35,000 feet midway across the Atlantic.

“If you look out of the windows on the starboard side of the aircraft you will observe that both the starboard engines are on fire.

“If you look out of the windows on the port side, you will observe that the port wing has fallen off.

“If you look down towards the Atlantic Ocean, you will see a little yellow life raft with three people in it waving at you.

“That's me, your captain, the co-pilot, and one of the air stewardesses. This is a recorded message.”

Vocabulary Help

- on behalf of – em nome de
- crew – tripulação
- height – altura
- midway – a meio caminho
- aircraft – aeronave
- both – ambos
- engines – motores
- fire – pegar fogo
- fall off – cair
- life raft – bote salva-vidas
- wave – acenar
- air stewardess – aeromoça
- recorded message – mensagem gravada

535

Communist Philosophy

It seems the Department of Information Services (Ministry of Propaganda) was out in the field, taking “the Revolution” to the people: explaining the fundamentals of Socialism to the populace to bolster popularity. A member of

the Department was out talking to a farmer in Siberia.

Official: So you see, comrade, that is the way Marx explained: “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.” You understand?

Farmer: (confused) No...

Official: OK. It’s like this: say a comrade has two cows. We take one cow from him and give it to comrade that has no cow. This is the Revolution. You see?

Farmer: Yes, this is good!!

Official: And if a comrade has two tractors, we take one of his tractors and give to the man who has no tractors. OK?

Farmer: YES! YES! This is VERY good!

Official: And if a comrade has two chickens, we give one chicken to the man who has no chickens. Ok?

Farmer: No! This is not good!

Official: Why?

Farmer: I have two chickens!

Vocabulary Help

- bolster – aumentar
- understand (understand, understood, understood) – entender, comprender
- cow – vaca
- take (take, took, taken) – tomar, pegar

536

Chocolate Cookies

An 87-year-old man, on his death bed and in pain, smells the aroma of fresh baked chocolate chip cookies coming from outside his bedroom. He thinks to himself, “My dear wife must be making my favorite cookies as a sentiment to our final hours together.” So he musters up what little strength he has remaining in his feeble body and drags himself out of bed.

Fighting off the pain and weakness, he stumbles into the hallway, down the stairs, and to the kitchen door. There, on the table, he sees a huge plate of

chocolate chip cookies, the steam rising from the plate, the chocolate chips still soft and gooey.

He thinks, “God bless my devoted wife for giving me such pleasure in my final hours on this earth”, and he then falls to the floor and crawls towards the cookies.

He gets to the table and, with the last ounce of strength he has left, reaches up with his hand to take a cookie. Just then, he feels the stinging Whack! of a metal spatula against his knuckles.

He looks up to see his wife standing over him, saying:

“Don’t you dare touch those cookies, they’re for the funeral guests!”

Vocabulary Help

- death bed – leito de morte
- pain – dor
- muster up – reunir
- strength – força
- feeble – frágil
- drag – arrastar
- weakness – fraqueza
- stairs – escadas
- kitchen – cozinha
- huge plate – prato enorme
- bless – abençoar
- funeral guests – convidados para o funeral

537

The Secret

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

Well, it dates back to our honeymoon,” explained the man. We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down the bottom of the canyon by pack mule.

We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, "That's once."

We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, "That's twice."

We hadn't gone a half mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her pocket and shot it.

I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, "That's once."

Vocabulary Help

- truly – verdadeiramente
- marriage – casamento
- couple – casal
- golden wedding – bodas de ouro
- talk of the town – assunto da cidade
- honeymoon – lua de mel
- trip – passeio
- bottom of the canyon – fundo do desfiladeiro
- stumble – tropeçar
- That's once – Primeira
- That's twice – Segunda
- pocket – bolso

538

Watermelons

There was a farmer who raised watermelons. He was doing pretty well but he was disturbed by some local kids who would sneak into his watermelon patch at night and eat his watermelons.

After some careful thought he comes up with a clever idea that he thinks will scare the kids away for sure. So he makes up a sign and posts it in the field. The next day the kids show up and they see this sign, which says, "Warning, one of the watermelons in this field has been injected with cyanide."

So the kids run off and make up their own sign, which they post next to the sign that the farmer made. The farmer shows up the next day to look over his field. He notices that no watermelons are missing but he notices a new sign next to his. He drives over to the sign and takes a look.

It says, “Now there are two.”

Vocabulary Help

- watermelon – melancia
- raise – plantar
- doing pretty well – indo bem
- sneak into – entrar sorrateiramente
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer
- careful thought – pensar cuidadosamente, bastante
- clever – inteligente
- scare – assustar
- sign – cartaz
- run off – fugir, correr
- make up – fazer
- take a look – dar uma olhada

539

The Bat and the Weasels

A BAT who fell upon the ground and was caught by a Weasel pleaded to be spared his life.

The Weasel refused, saying that he was by nature the enemy of all birds. The Bat assured him that he was not a bird, but a mouse, and thus was set free. Shortly afterwards the Bat again fell to the ground and was caught by another Weasel, whom he likewise entreated not to eat him.

The Weasel said that he had a special hostility to mice. The Bat assured him that he was not a mouse, but a bat, and thus a second time escaped.

It is wise to turn circumstances to good account.

Vocabulary Help

- bat – morcego
- weasel – doninha
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- ground – chão
- catch (catch, caught, caught) – pegar, capturar
- plead – implorar
- spare – poupar
- refuse – recusar
- enemy – inimigo
- bird – pássaro
- assure – assegurar, garantir
- set free – libertar
- shortly afterwards – logo em seguida
- likewise – da mesma forma
- entreat – convencer, dissuadir
- mice – ratos

540

Tampons

Two little boys go into the grocery store. One is nine, one is four. The nine-year-old grabs a box of tampons from the shelf and carries it to the register for check-out.

The cashier asks, “Oh, these must be for your mom, huh?”

The nine-year-old replies “nope, not for my mom”

Cashier: “Well they must be for your sister then?”

Nine-year-old: “Nope, not for my sister either.”

Cashier (curious now): “Oh, not for your mom and not for your sister, who are they for?”

The nine-year-old says “They’re for my four-year-old little brother.”

The cashier is surprised “Your four-year-old little brother??”

The nine-year-old explains: “Well, yeah, they say on TV if you wear one of

these you can swim or ride a bike and my little brother can't do either of them!"

Vocabulary Help

- grocery store – mercearia
- grab – agarrar
- tampons – absorventes femininos íntimos
- shelf – prateleira
- register – caixa registradora
- cashier – caixa
- mom – mãe
- sister – irmã
- nope – não
- swim – nadar
- ride a bike – andar de bicicleta

541

Ugly Suit

When the store manager returned from lunch, he noticed his clerk's hand was bandaged, but before he could ask about the bandage, the clerk said he had some very good news for him.

"Guess what, sir?" the clerk said. "I finally sold that terrible, ugly suit we've had so long!"

"Do you mean that repulsive pink-and-blue double-breasted thing?" the manager asked.

"That's the one!"

"That's great!" the manager cried, "I thought we'd never get rid of that monstrosity! That had to be the ugliest suit we have ever had! But tell me Why is your hand bandaged?"

"Oh," the clerk replied, "after I sold the guy that suit, his guide dog bit me."

Vocabulary Help

- store manager – gerente da loja

- lunch – almoço
- notice – notar, observar
- hand – mão
- bandaged – enfaixada
- good news – boas notícias
- guess what – adivinha
- sell (sell, sold, sold) – vender
- ugly – feio
- cry (cried) – gritar
- get rid – ficar livre
- guide dog – cão guia de cegos
- bit (bit, bit, bitten) – morder

542

At the Pearly Gates

There were these three guys in heaven at the pearly gates.

St Peter asked the first guy, “Why are you here?”

“I came home from work one day and I saw my wife in bed naked with the sheets all messed up and the window open. I looked out the window and saw a man walking away so I took my refrigerator and threw it at him out the window and the cord got stuck around my foot and I went with it.

St Peter said, “Oh.”

He asked the second guy, “Why are you here?”

He said: “Well, I was just walking around and this big refrigerator came and smashed me.”

St Peter said, “Oh.”

The third guy was just standing there naked and St Peter said, “Why are you here?”

He said: “I don’t know. I was just sitting in a refrigerator.”

Vocabulary Help

- heaven – paraíso

- pearly gates – portais do paraíso
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- sheets – lençóis
- messed up – bagunçados, em desordem
- throw (throw, threw, thrown) – jogar
- cord – cabo de força
- stuck – agarrou
- foot – pé
- go (go, went, gone) – ir
- naked – nu

543

Yet More Elephant Jokes

Q: Why are there so many elephants running around free in the jungle?

A: Fridge is not large enough to hold them all.

Q: What do you call an elephant with a machine gun?

A: Sir.

Q: What do you call an elephant wearing pink earmuffs and a dress?

A: Anything you want, it can't hear you.

Q: Why do elephants drink so much?

A: To try to forget.

Q: What's grey, yellow, grey, yellow, grey, yellow, grey, yellow, grey, yellow, grey, yellow?

A: An elephant rolling down a hill with a daisy in its mouth!

Vocabulary Help

- free – livres
- large enough – grande o suficiente
- hold (hold, held, held) – abrigar (segurar)
- machine gun – metralhadora
- wear (wear, wore, worn) – usar

- pink – rosa
- earmuffs – abafadores de som usados sobre os ouvidos
- dress – vestido
- try – tentar
- forget – esquecer
- grey – cinza
- roll – rolar
- rolling down a hill – rolando colina abaixo
- hill – colina
- daisy – margarida
- mouth – boca

544

Terrible Truths

- Murphy's First Law: Nothing is as easy as it looks.
- Murphy's Second Law: Everything takes longer than you think.
- Murphy's Third Law: In any field of scientific endeavour, anything that can go wrong will go wrong.
- Murphy's Fourth Law: If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.
- Murphy's Fifth Law: If anything just cannot go wrong, it will anyway.
- Murphy's Sixth Law: If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong and circumvent these, then a fifth way, unprepared for, will promptly develop.
- Murphy's Seventh Law: Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.
- Murphy's Eighth Law: If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- Murphy's Ninth Law: Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
- Murphy's Tenth Law: Mother Nature is a bitch.

- Murphy's Eleventh Law: It is impossible to make anything fool-proof, because fools are so ingenious.
- Nick the Greek's Law of Life: All things considered, life is 9 to 5 against.
- Nowlan's Theory: He who hesitates is not only lost, but several miles from the next freeway exit.
- Van Roy's Law: Honesty is the best policy – there's less competition.
- Van Roy's Truism: Life is a whole series of circumstances beyond your control.
- Agnes' Law: Almost everything in life is easier to get into than out of.
- Clarke's Conclusion: Never let your sense of morals interfere with doing the right thing.
- Goda's Truism: By the time you get to the point where you can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends.
- Johnny Carson's Definition: The smallest interval of time known to man is that which occurs in Manhattan between the traffic signal turning green and the taxi driver behind you blowing his horn.
- Zall's Laws: (1) Any time you get a mouthful of hot soup, the next thing you do will be wrong (2) How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Ettore's Observation: The other line moves faster.
- Griffin's Thought: When you starve with a tiger, the tiger starves last.
- Manly's Maxim: Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.
- Cann's Axiom: When all else fails, read the instructions.
- Knebel's Law: It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics.
- The Law of Selective Gravity, or the Buttered Side Down Law: An object will fall so as to do the most damage.
- William's Law: There is no mechanical problem so difficult that it cannot be solved by brute strength and ignorance.

Vocabulary Help

- law – lei
- perceives – perceber
- procedure – procedimento
- wrong – errado
- go wrong – dar errado
- cliff – penhasco
- circumvent – evitar
- bad to worse – mal para pior
- overlooked – esquecer, não levar em consideração
- hidden – escondido
- flaw – falha, defeito
- law – lei
- take longer – levar mais tempo
- wrong – errado
- damage – dano
- foolproof – à prova de idiotas
- ingenious – engenhoso
- fat – gordo
- soap – sabão
- thin – magro
- lost – perdido
- freeway exit – saída da estrada
- policy – política
- beyond – além
- traffic signal – sinal de trânsito
- blow the horn – tocar a buzina
- mouthful – boca cheia
- hot soup – sopa quente
- wrong – errado
- bathroom – banheiro
- door – porta
- starve – passar fome

- confidence – confiança
- smoke – fumar
- leading – principais
- buttered side down – lado com a manteiga para baixo
- damage – dano
- brute strength – força bruta

545

Grass

Have you noticed that all you need to grow healthy, vigorous grass is a crack in your sidewalk?

Vocabulary Help

- healthy – saudável
- grow – crescer
- grass – mato
- crack – fenda
- sidewalk – passeio, calçada

546

The Famous Barber

Seems there was a barber in New York by the name of Jo Hariboldi. Jo loved to brag to his customers that he, “knows everybody who’s anybody.” The walls of the shop are resplendent with autographed pictures of celebrities and notables.

One regular customer grows a little weary of hearing all the bragging and decides to call Jo on it by telling him, “I bet you fifty bucks you don’t even know Sinatra!”

‘Frankie?’ says Jo, ‘We were childhood buddies. For the price of the airfare, I’ll take you to Vegas and prove it.’

Being financially comfortable, the customer agrees to add the airfare to the bet, and they fly to Las Vegas and catch Frank’s show.

After the show, Jo takes the guy back to the dressing room where Sinatra greets him warmly and has them both in for drinks.

Back in New York, the customer is even more peeved at losing the bet and determines to find some way to win it back. One day he asks Jo if he knows Reagan.

“Hell,” I got him into pictures. For the price of the airfare, I’ll prove it to you.”

So off they go to DC, where they join the daily tour of the White House. As they stroll through the East Wing, a door opens and old Ronnie steps out, surrounded by G-men. He spots Jo, pushes his way past the Secret Service guys, and embraces him like old times.

Back in New York again, the customer decides to have one last all-out attempt at retribution.

‘Hey, Jo,’ he says. ‘I’ll bet you don’t know the Pope. Heck, he ain’t even Italian this time around!’

‘You bet I do,’ says Jo, ‘and for the price of the airfare’ etc.

They jet to the Vatican and arrive at St Peter’s basilica during one of the large open-air masses the Pope conducts from a balcony. The piazza is packed with pilgrims, rosaries in hand, waiting for services to start. Jo and the customer are sandwiched between some sweet little old Italian senoras.

Jo turns to the customer and says, “This is gonna be tough. I don’t think I can get us both into the chambers before Mass starts, but I’ll tell you what. You keep an eye on that balcony up there, because that’s where the Pope says Mass from. I’m going inside to meet him, and then I’ll be back.”

With that, Jo elbows his way off into the crowd. Left alone, the customer soon sees a small figure appear at the balcony and begin the ceremony. Soon a second figure joins him, and they turn and hug each other warmly. Pondering all this, the customer speculates that:

1. He is so far away he can’t really make out either of them and
2. Jo has won so much money from him that he could conceivably stage the whole thing.

With that in mind, he nudges the little old lady next to him, who looks up from her rosary.

“Excuse me, senora, but can you tell me, is that REALLY the Pope up there?”

The old woman squints hard in the direction of the balcony and responds, “I’m not sure, but the other fella with him is Jo Hariboldi!”

Vocabulary Help

- brag – vangloriar-se
- weary – cansado
- airfare – passagem aérea
- bet – aposta
- greet – cumprimentar
- warmly – calorosamente
- mass – missa
- pilgrim – peregrinos
- tough – difícil
- nudge – cutucar
- squint – forçar os olhos

547

A Day Without Sunshine

A day without sunshine is like night.

Vocabulary Help

- sunshine – luz do sol
- like night – como a noite

548

The Corporate World

- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- You can’t tell which way the train went by looking at the tracks.
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation
- Happiness is merely the remission of pain.
- Nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.

- Sometimes too much drink is not enough.
- The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.
- The careful application of terror is also a form of communication.
- Someone who thinks logically is a nice contrast to the real world.
- Things are more like they are today than they ever were before.
- Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for.
- Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.
- Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.
- Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism.
- If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
- All things being equal, fat people use more soap.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame
- One-seventh of your life is spent on Monday.
- By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious
- The more you run over a dead cat, the flatter it gets.
- There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- This is as bad as it can get, but don't count on it.
- Never wrestle a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it.
- The trouble with life is, you're halfway through it before you realize it's a do-it-yourself thing.
- The first rats off of the sinking ship are the best swimmers.

Vocabulary Help

- key – chave
- tracks – trilhos
- lack – falta de
- too much – muito

- enough – suficiente
- careful – cuidadoso
- nice – bom, legal
- worth fighting for – vale a pena lutar por
- dirty – sujo
- self-criticism – autocrítica
- fat – gordo
- people – pessoas
- soap – sabão
- shred – fragmento
- evidence – prova
- flatter – mais chato, plano
- wrestle – lutar
- pig – porco
- do-it-yourself – faça você mesmo
- halfway – metade do caminho

549

Chickens

Psychiatrist: What's your problem?

Patient: I think I'm a chicken.

Psychiatrist: How long has this been going on?

Patient: Ever since I was an egg!

Vocabulary Help

- chicken – galinha
- egg – ovo

550

Things We Can Learn From a Dog

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- Take naps and stretch before rising.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout – run right back and make friends.
- Bond with your pack.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Vocabulary Help

- joyride – passeio
- wind – vento
- fresh air – ar fresco
- naps – sonecas
- stretch – alongar-se
- rise (rise, rose, risen) – levantar
- gusto – vontade
- loyal – leal
- pretend – fingir
- sit close by – sente-se junto (dele)

- nuzzle – cutucar com o focinho
- bite – morder
- growl – rosnado
- will do – ser suficiente, adequado
- drink (drink, drank, drunk) – beber
- shady tree – árvore frondosa, com bastante sombra
- wag – balançar, abanar
- scold – repreender
- guilt – culpa
- bond – ligar-se, associar-se
- delight – aproveitar, deliciar-se
- joy – prazer
- long walk – longa caminhada

551

Top Ten Things Men Understand About Women

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-

Vocabulary Help

- top ten things – lista das dez coisas
- men – homens
- understand (understand, understood, understood) – entender

- women – mulheres

552

Real Life Dilbert Quotes

As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks.

FRED DALES AT MICROSOFT CORPORATION

What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter.

(LYKES LINES SHIPPING)

E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business.

(ACCOUNTING MGR., ELECTRIC BOAT COMPANY)

Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule. No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them.

RANDD SUPERVISOR, MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING – 3M CORP

My boss spent the entire weekend retyping a 25-page proposal that only needed corrections. She claims the disk I gave her was damaged and she couldn't edit it. The disk I gave her was write-protected.

CIO OF DELL COMPUTERS

Quote from the boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what 'I' say."

MKTG. EXECUTIVE, CITRIX CORPORATION

We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees.

AT&T LONGE LINES DIVISION

We recently received a memo from senior management saying, "This is to inform you that a memo will be issued today regarding the subject mentioned above."

MICROSOFT, LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

One day my boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He

said, “If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!”

NEW BUSINESS MGR, HALLMARK CARDS

Vocabulary Help

- unknown – desconhecidos
- data – dados
- company business – negócios da empresa
- excuse – desculpa
- believe – acreditar
- go act busy – vá se fingir de ocupado
- teamwork – trabalho em equipe
- people – pessoas
- employees – empregados
- senior management – alta gerência
- issued – emitido
- regarding – relativo a
- subject – assunto
- boss – chefe
- weekend – final de semana
- claims – afirma
- damaged – estragado, danificado
- boss – chefe
- status report – relatório
- soon enough – dentro do prazo
- tomorrow – amanhã

553

Arguments With Women

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says afterward is the beginning of a new argument.

Vocabulary Help

- argument – discussão
- last word – última palavra
- afterward – em seguida
- beginning – começo

554

Quotations (1)

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.

EPICLETUS

Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

SUSAN ERTZ

I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally.

W.C. FIELDS

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.

ERICH FROMM

If you can count your money, you don't have a billion dollars.

JOHN PAUL GETTY

There is nothing permanent except change.

HERACLITUS

Maybe this world is another planet's hell.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

Vocabulary Help

- ears – orelhas
- mouth – boca
- listen – ouvir
- twice – duas vezes
- speak (speak, spoke, spoken) – falar
- long – almejam, ambicionam
- rainy – chuvosa

- free – livre
- prejudices – preconceitos
- hate – odiar
- statesman – estadista
- successful – bem-sucedido
- count – contar
- money – dinheiro
- change – mudança
- hell – inferno

555

Quotations (2)

Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.

AESOP

Leisure time is that five or six hours when you sleep at night.

GEORGE ALLEN

Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible for talent is genius.

HENRI-FREDERIC AMIEL

What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.

ARISTOTLE

It is good to be without vices, but it is not good to be without temptations.

WALTER BAGEHOT

The future is like heaven – everyone exalts it, but no one wants to go there now.

JAMES BALDWIN

Television is the first truly democratic culture – the first culture available to everybody and entirely governed by what the people want the most terrifying thing is what people do want.

CLIVE BARNES

Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils.

HECTOR BERLIOZ

The first sign of a nervous breakdown is when you start thinking your work is terribly important.

MILO BLOOM

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a narrow field.

NIELS BOHR

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first, and call whatever you hit the target.

ASHLEIGH BRILLIANT

Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow.

MATHEW BROWNE

An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less.

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

You can get much farther with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone.

AL CAPONE

Diplomacy is the art of saying “Nice Doggie!” till you can find a rock.

WYNN CATLIN

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

CHINESE PROVERB

When you have nothing to say, say nothing.

CHARLES CALEB COLTON

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

CONFUCIUS

Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.

CONFUCIUS

Vocabulary Help

- lot – destino
- leisure – lazer
- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- easily (easy) – facilmente (fácil)

- friend – amigo
- soul – alma
- dwell – viver, habitar
- body(ies) – corpo
- vice – vício
- heaven – paraíso, céu
- truly – verdadeiramente
- available – disponível
- want – querer
- what people do want – o que as pessoas verdadeiramente querem
- kill – matar
- nervous breakdown – colapso nervoso
- think (think, thought, thought) – pensar
- work – trabalho
- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- mistake – erro
- narrow – estreito, limitado
- field – campo
- hit (hit, hit, hit) – atingir
- target – alvo
- shoot – atirar
- whatever – o que quer que seja
- put off – adiar
- know (know, knew, known) – saber
- less – menos
- farther – mais longe
- kind – gentil
- gun – arma
- alone – apenas (sozinho)
- say (say, said, said) – dizer
- nice doggie – cachorrinho bonitinho
- rock – pedra

- fool – tolo, idiota
- remain – permanecer
- forever – para sempre
- say – dizer
- hear – ouvir
- forget – esquecer
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- remember – lembrar, recordar
- do – fazer
- understand – entender
- knowledge – conhecimento

556

Quotations (3)

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

HARRY S TRUMAN

The trouble with the rat-race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

LILY TOMLIN

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.

BERTRAND RUSSEL

Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it.

CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

Fear not your enemies, for they can only kill you; fear not your friends for they can only betray you. Fear only the indifferent, who permit the killers and betrayers to walk safely on the earth.

EDWARD YASHINSKY

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

MARK TWAIN

Hard work has a future payoff. Laziness pays off now.

UNKNOWN

No man is rich enough to buy back his past.

OSCAR WILDE

There is nothing in this world constant but inconstancy.

SWIFT

When the rich make war it's the poor that die.

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

Vocabulary Help

- amazing – fantástico, extraordinário
- accomplish – realizar, fazer
- care – importar
- rat-race – corrida de ratos
- win – ganhar
- still – ainda
- fools – tolos, idiotas
- wiser – mais sábios (wise – sábio)
- doubts – dúvidas
- convey – transmitir
- become – tornar-se
- happen – acontecer
- fear – temer (medo)
- enemies – inimigos
- kill – matar
- friends – amigos
- betray – trair
- only – apenas
- walk – caminhar
- safely – em segurança
- say (say, said, said) – dizer
- owe – dever

- living – sustento
- hard work – trabalho duro
- payoff – compensação
- laziness – preguiça
- rich – rico
- enough – suficientemente
- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- past – passado
- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- war – guerra
- poor – pobres
- die – morrer

557

Quotations (4)

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.

LAURENCE COUGHLIN

Love built on beauty, soon as beauty dies.

JOHN DONNE

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

WILL DURANT

I never think of the future – it comes soon enough.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The important thing is not to stop questioning.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Before God we are equally wise – and equally foolish.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Vocabulary Help

- talk – falar
- unless – a menos que
- improve – aperfeiçoar, melhorar
- build (build, built, built) – construir
- beauty – beleza
- soon – cedo, tão logo
- die – morrer
- discovery – descoberta
- own ignorance – própria ignorância
- soon – logo, breve
- enough – suficiente
- common sense – bom senso
- prejudices – preconceitos
- minds – mentes
- questioning – questionamento
- release – liberação
- solve – resolver, solucionar
- wise – sábio
- foolish – idiota (característica de ser)

558

Immortality

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying.

WOODY ALLEN

Vocabulary Help

- through – através
- achieve – alcançar
- die – morrer

559

Cowardice

The surest protection against temptation is cowardice.

MARK TWAIN

Vocabulary Help

- against – contra
- cowardice – covardia

560

The Wedding

A young couple decided to wed. As the big day approached, they grew apprehensive. Each had a problem they had never before shared with anyone, not even each other.

The groom-to-be, overcoming his fear, decided to ask his father for advice.

“Father, I am deeply concerned about the success of my marriage.”

His father replied, “Don’t you love this girl?”

“Oh yes, very much,” he said, “but you see, I have very smelly feet, and I’m afraid that my fiancée will be put off by them”

“No problem,” said dad, “all you have to do is wash your feet as often as possible, and always wear socks, even to bed.”

Well, to him this seemed a workable solution.

The bride-to-be, overcoming her fear, decided to take her problem up with her mom.

“Mom,” she said, “when I wake up in the morning my breath is truly awful.”

“Honey,” her mother consoled, “everyone has bad breath in the morning.”

“No, you don’t understand. My morning breath is so bad, I’m afraid that my fiancé will not want to sleep in the same room with me.”

Her mother said simply, “Try this In the morning, get straight out of bed, and head for the kitchen and make breakfast. While the family is busy eating, move on to the bathroom and brush your teeth. The key is, not to say a word until you’ve brushed your teeth.”

“I shouldn’t say good morning or anything?” the daughter asked.

“Not a word,” her mother affirmed.

“Well, it’s certainly worth a try,” she thought.

The loving couple were finally married. Not forgetting the advice each had received, he with his perpetual socks and she with her morning silence, they managed quite well. That is, until about six months later. Shortly before dawn, the husband wakes with a start to find that one of his socks had come off. Fearful of the consequences, he frantically searches the bed. This, of course, wakes his bride and without thinking, she immediately asks, “What on earth are you doing?”

“Oh, my,” he replies, ‘you’ve swallowed my sock!’”

Vocabulary Help

- wed – casar
- grow (grow, grew, grown) – crescer, aumentar
- share – compartilhar
- groom-to-be – futuro noivo
- overcome – superar
- fear – medo
- advice – conselho
- concern – preocupação
- marriage – casamento
- reply – responder
- smelly feet – pés malcheirosos
- fiancée – noiva
- put off – desencorajada
- sock – meia

- workable solution – solução viável
- bride-to-be – futura noiva
- breath – hálito
- awful – terrível
- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- brush your teeth – escovar os seus dentes
- worth a try – vale a pena tentar
- forget (forget, forgot, forgotten) – esquecer
- dawn – madrugada
- come off – sair
- fearful – temeroso
- frantically – desesperadamente
- swallow – engolir

561

Good Time

Try not to have a good time ... This is supposed to be educational.

CHARLES SCHULZ

Vocabulary Help

- good time – momento agradável

562

The Rules

For those of you who don't already know, these are the rules that are in effect in every relationship.

- The female always makes the rules.
- These rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.
- No male can possibly know all the rules.
- If the female suspects that the male knows all the rules, she must immediately change some or all of the rules.

- The female is never wrong.
- If the female is wrong it is because of a vagrant misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the male said or did wrong.
- If rule number six applies, the male must immediately apologize for causing the misunderstanding.
- The female can change her mind at any given point in time.
- The male must never change his mind without express written consent of the female.
- The female has every right to be angry or upset at any time.
- The male must remain calm at all times, unless the female wants him to be angry or upset.
- The female must under no circumstances let the male know whether she wants him to be calm, angry or upset.
- Any attempt to document these rules could result in bodily harm.
- The female always gets the last word!

These rules are subject to change as the female sees fit.

Vocabulary Help

- rules – regras
- relationship – relação
- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- subject to change – passíveis de mudança
- prior – antecipada
- male – macho
- know (know, knew, known) – conhecer, saber
- never – nunca
- wrong – errado
- vagrant – vago
- misunderstanding – mal entendido
- apologize – desculpar-se
- change her mind – mudar de ideia
- consent – consentimento

- angry – com raiva, nervoso
- upset – desapontado
- remain – permanecer
- unless – a menos que
- bodily harm – dano físico
- last word – última palavra

563

A Restaurant Joke

Diner: I can't eat this chicken. Call the manager!

Waiter: It's no use. He can't eat it either.

Vocabulary Help

- manager – gerente
- it's no use – não adianta

564

Having Everything

You can't have everything. Where would you put it?

STEVEN WRIGHT

Vocabulary Help

- put (put, put, put) – colocar

565

The Mafia

The mafia was looking for a new man to make weekly collections from all the private businesses that they were 'protecting.'

Feeling the heat from the police force, they decided to use a deaf person for this job; if he were to get caught, he wouldn't be able to communicate to the police what he was doing.

Well, on his first week, the deaf collector picks up over \$40, 000. He gets

greedy, decides to keep the money and stashes it in a safe place. The mafia soon realizes that their collection is late, and sends some of their hoods after the deaf collector.

The hoods find the deaf collector and ask him where the money is. The deaf collector can't communicate with them, so the mafia drags the guy to an interpreter.

The mafia hood says to the interpreter, "Ask him where the money is."

The interpreter signs, "Where's the money?"

The deaf replies, "I don't know what you're talking about."

The interpreter tells the hood, "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."

The hood pulls out a 38 and places it in the ear of the deaf collector. "NOW ask him where the money is."

The interpreter signs, "Where is the money?"

The deaf replies, "The \$40,000 is in a tree stump in Central Park."

The interpreter's eyes light up and says to the hood:

"He says he still doesn't know what you're talking about, and doesn't think you have the courage to pull the trigger."

Vocabulary Help

- look for – procurar
- private businesses – empresas privadas
- fell the heat – sentir a pressão
- deaf – surdo
- get caught (catch, caught, caught) – ser apanhado
- pick up – coletar
- greedy – ambicioso
- stash – esconder
- realize – compreender
- hood – gangster
- drag – arrastar
- ear – ouvido

- tree stump – toco de árvore
- light up – iluminar
- pull the trigger – puxar o gatilho

566

Doing a Job

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell ‘em ``Certainly, I can!’’ Then get busy and find out how to do it.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Vocabulary Help

- can do a job – poder fazer uma tarefa
- tell ‘em (tell them) – dizer-lhes
- get busy – começar a trabalhar
- find out how to do it – descobrir como fazer

567

Independence

If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability.

HENRY FORD

Vocabulary Help

- money – dinheiro
- hope – esperança
- never – nunca
- security – segurança
- knowledge – conhecimento

568

The Halloween Party

A couple was invited to a swanky masked Halloween party. She got a terrible headache and told her husband to go to the party alone. He, being a devoted husband, protested, but she argued and said she was going to take some aspirin and go to bed, and there was no need of his good time being spoiled by not going.

So he took his costume and away he went. The wife, after sleeping soundly for one hour, awakened without pain, and as it was still early, she decided to go to the party. In as much as her husband did not know what her costume was, she thought she would have some fun by watching her husband to see how he acted when she was not with him.

She joined the party and soon spotted her husband cavorting around on the dance floor, dancing with every nice chick he could and copping a little feel here and a little kiss there. His wife went up to him and being a rather seductive babe herself, he left his partner high and dry and devoted his time to the new stuff that had just arrived. She let him go as far as he wished; naturally, since he was her husband.

Finally he whispered a little proposition in her ear and she agreed, so off they went to one of the cars and had a little bang.

Just before unmasking at midnight, she slipped away and went home and put the costume away and got into bed, wondering what kind of explanation he would make for his behavior.

She was sitting up reading when he came in and asked what kind of a time he had. He said, "Oh, the same old thing. You know I never have a good time when you're not there."

Then she asked, "Did you dance much?"

He replied, "I'll tell you, I never even danced one dance. When I got there, I met Pete, Bill Brown and some other guys, so we went into the den and played poker all evening. But I'll tell you... the guy I loaned my costume to sure had a real good time!"

Vocabulary Help

- halloween party – baile do dia das bruxas
- headache – dor de cabeça
- spoil – estragar

- costume – fantasia
- pain – dor
- fun – diversão
- copping a little feel – apalpando
- kiss – beijo
- slip away – ir embora discretamente
- loan – emprestar

569

Erasers

When you make your mark in the world, watch out for guys with erasers.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Vocabulary Help

- make (make, made, made) – fazer
- mark in the world – impressão no mundo
- watch out – tome cuidado
- guys – pessoas
- erasers – borrachas

570

Heaven

Heaven is where the police are British, the chefs French, the mechanics German, the lovers Italian, and it is all organised by the Swiss.

Hell is where the police are German, the cooks British, the mechanics French, the lovers Swiss, and it is all being organised by the Italians.

Vocabulary Help

- heaven – céu, paraíso
- chefs – cozinheiros
- lovers – amantes
- hell – inferno

- cooks – cozinheiros

571

The Fox and the Goat

A FOX one day fell into a deep well and could find no means of escape. A Goat, overcome with thirst, came to the same well and, seeing the Fox, inquired if the water was good.

Concealing his sad plight under a merry guise, the Fox indulged in a lavish praise of the water, saying it was excellent beyond measure, and encouraging him to descend.

The Goat, mindful only of his thirst, thoughtlessly jumped down, but just as he drank, the Fox informed him of the difficulty they were both in and suggested a scheme for their common escape.

“If”, said he, ‘you will place your forefeet upon the wall and bend your head, I will run up your back and escape, and will help you out afterwards.’”

The Goat readily assented and the Fox leaped upon his back. Steadying himself with the Goats horns, he safely reached the mouth of the well and made off as fast as he could. When the Goat upbraided him for breaking his promise, he turned around and cried out, “You foolish old fellow! If you had as many brains in your head as you have hairs in your beard, you would never have gone down before you had inspected the way up, nor have exposed yourself to dangers from which you had no means of escape.”

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

Vocabulary Help

- fox – raposa
- goat – bode
- deep well – poço fundo
- means of escape – meios para escapar
- overcome with thirst – subjugado pela sede
- conceal – esconder
- sad plight – situação difícil
- merry guise – disfarce alegre

- lavish – abundante
- praise – elogio
- thoughtlessly – impensadamente
- jump down – pular
- forefeet – patas dianteiras
- wall – parede
- bend – curvar
- assent – concordar
- leap – pular
- horn – chifre
- fast – rápido

572

Good Morning

Take care that the face that looks out from the mirror in the morning is a pleasant face. You may not see it again during the day, but others will.

Vocabulary Help

- take care – tomar cuidado
- look out – olhar a partir de
- mirror – espelho
- pleasant face – face agradável
- again – novamente

573

Worrying

Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about don't happen.

WATCHMAN EXAMINER

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer

- worry – preocupar
- do any good – não faz bem
- happen – acontecer

574

Top Ten Requirements in a Man

ORIGINAL LIST

- Handsome
- Charming
- Financially successful
- A caring listener
- Witty
- In good shape
- Stylish dresser
- Shares my interests
- Full of thoughtful little surprises
- Is an imaginative, romantic lover

==REVISED LIST==

- Not too ugly
- Doesn't belch or scratch in public
- Works steadily
- Doesn't nod off while I'm emoting
- Usually remembers punch line of jokes
- Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
- Usually wears matching socks
- Knows not to buy champagne with screw top lids
- Remembers to put the toilet lid down (sometimes)
- Shaves on weekends

Vocabulary Help

- handsome – bonito
- charming – charmoso
- caring listener – ouvinte atencioso
- good shape – em boa forma
- stylish dresser – que se veste bem
- not too ugly – não muito feio
- belch – arrotar
- scratch – coçar
- steadily – assiduamente
- nod off – balançar a cabeça em desaprovação
- furniture – mobília
- matching socks – meias de cores iguais
- screw top lids – tampa de enroscar
- toilet lid – tampa da privada
- shave – barbear
- weekend – final de semana

575

Criticism

To escape criticism – do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.

ELBERT HUBBARD

Vocabulary Help

- criticism – crítica
- be nothing – seja nada

576

Dice

God doesn't play dice.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Vocabulary Help

- God – Deus
- play dice – jogar dados

577

When Superheroes Go Bad

This guy goes to a bar that's on the top floor of a large hotel. He sits down and has a couple of drinks, then stands up, announces loudly that he has had enough, goes over and jumps out the window.

There are two men who are sitting at a window table, and – having that natural human curiosity about the grotesque – watch as this man plummets to certain death. However, just as he is about to hit the ground, he rights himself, pulls his feet underneath himself, and lands gracefully. He then turns and comes back into the building. Naturally, the two men are amazed.

The guy comes back into the bar, orders a few drinks, then repeats the process. The two men at the window seat are astounded! When the guy returns and repeats the procedure AGAIN, the two men stop him before he jumps and ask him how on earth he does that. He replies, "It's simple, really. There's an air vent down by the ground; when you catch the updraft, you can right yourself and land on the ground with no problems." Then he proceeded to jump out the window again.

Well, these two men decided that they just HAD to try this, so they jumped out the window, and SPLAT! SPLAT! – made a mess hitting all over the ground.

Meanwhile, the first guy has made it back up to the bar. When he sits down to order his drinks, the bartender says to him, "You know, Superman, you can be a real idiot when you're drunk."

Vocabulary Help

- guy – pessoa
- go (go, went, gone) – ir
- top floor – terraço
- sit down – sentar

- couple of drinks – alguns drinques
- stand up – levantar
- loud – alto
- jump out – pular
- watch – olhar, observar
- plummet – despencar
- hit the ground – atingir o chão
- astounded – atônitos
- updraft – corrente de vento ascendente
- air vent – corrente de vento
- mess – confusão, desordem
- meanwhile – neste meio tempo
- bartender – barman
- drunk – bêbado

578

Chocolate

Anything that is good and useful is made of chocolate.

Vocabulary Help

- good – bom
- useful – útil
- made of chocolate – feito de chocolate

579

Caution

You know you're into middle age when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.

Vocabulary Help

- middle age – meia-idade
- realize – entender, compreender

- care to exercise – se importa em praticar

580

Directions

If we do not change our direction we are likely to end up where we are headed.

Vocabulary Help

- change – mudar
- likely to end – provavelmente terminaremos
- headed – onde se quer chegar

581

Sleeping With The Enemy

A gentleman (?) and his wife are speeding down the highway when a policeman pulls them over.

“I’m sorry, sir, but I clocked you speeding at 75 mph. I’ll have to give you a ticket.”

“No way, officer,” says the guy, ‘I was watching my speedometer closely, and I never exceeded 55 mph.’”

“Oh, honey,” says the wife, ‘you were going 75, I saw the speedometer.’”

“Be quiet, woman,” he responds.

“Also,” continued the trooper, ‘I’ll have to give you a ticket for not wearing your seat belt.’”

“But officer,” he responded, ‘I ALWAYS wear my seat belt. I just took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license and insurance card from the glove compartment.’”

“Oh, honey,” his wife continued, ‘you never wear your seat belt and you weren’t wearing it today, either.’”

“Shut up!” he yelled.

“Excuse me, ma’am,” said the trooper, ‘But does he always talk to you this

way?”

“No, sir – only when he’s drunk.”

Vocabulary Help

- highway – rodovia
- pull over – encostar
- speeding at – dirigindo a
- ticket – multa
- no way – de jeito nenhum
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- speedometer – velocímetro
- seat belt – cinto de segurança
- always – sempre
- take off – retirar
- insurance – seguro
- glove compartment – portar-luvas
- shut up – calar a boca
- drunk – bêbado
- dean – reitor
- slightly – ligeiramente
- average – média
- hopeless – sem esperança
- listen to – ouvir
- related to – relacionado com
- career minded – focado na carreira
- yawn – bocejar
- handle – lidar com
- paperwork – trabalho burocrático, papelada
- breathe – respirar
- remarkably – excepcionalmente
- committed to – comprometido com

582

Cervantes

Miguel de Cervantes wrote *Donkey Hote*. Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*, then his wife died and he wrote *Paradise Regained*.

Vocabulary Help

- Paradise lost – Paraíso Perdido
- paradise regained – Paraiso Recuperado

583

Computer Dating

I'm all for computer dating, but I wouldn't want one to marry my sister.

Vocabulary Help

- computer dating – encuentros por computador
- marry – casar
- sister – irmã

584

Rooster Race

An old rooster sees a young one strutting around and he gets a little worried. "So, they're trying to replace me", thinks the old rooster. "I've got to do something about this".

He walks up to the new bird and says:

"So, you're the new guy in town. I bet you really think you're hot stuff, don't you? I'm not exactly ready for the chopping block yet. I bet I'm still the better bird. And to prove it, I challenge you to a race around that hen house over there. We'll run around it ten times and whoever finishes first gets to have all the hens for himself"

Well, the young rooster was a proud sort, and he definitely thought he was more than a match for the old guy. "You're on," said the young rooster. "And since I know I'm so great, I'll even give you a head start of half a lap."

“I’ll still win easily,” said the young cocky rooster.

So, the two roosters go over to the hen house to start the race and all the hens gather around to watch. The race begins and all the hens start cheering the roosters on.

After the first lap, the old rooster is still maintaining his lead. After the second lap, the old guy’s lead has slipped a little but he’s still hanging in there. Unfortunately the old rooster’s lead continued to slip each time around, and by the fifth lap he just barely led the young rooster.

By then, the farmer has heard all the commotion. He ran into the house, got his shotgun, and ran out to the barn yard, figuring a fox or something was after his chickens. When he got there, he saw the two roosters running around the hen house, with the old rooster still slightly in the lead. He immediately took his shotgun, aimed, fired, and blew the young rooster away. He walked away slowly, saying to himself...

“That’s the third gay rooster I’ve bought this month.”

Vocabulary Help

- rooster – galo
- strut – andar orgulhosamente
- worry – preocupação
- new guy – cara novo
- town – cidade
- bet – apostar
- chopping block – matadouro
- challenge – desafio
- race – corrida
- hen house – galinheiro
- proud sort – tipo orgulhoso
- head start – vantagem
- half a lap – meia volta
- maintain – manter
- shotgun – espingarda
- barn yard – pátio do celeiro

- figure – imaginar
- fox – raposa

585

The Third Law of Photography

If you did manage to get any good shots, they will be ruined when someone inadvertently opens the darkroom door and all of the dark leaks out.

Vocabulary Help

- manage – conseguir
- shots – fotos
- darkroom – quarto escuro
- leak out – vazar

586

Arguments with Furniture

Arguments with furniture are rarely productive.

KEHLOG ALBRAN, "THE PROFIT"

Vocabulary Help

- arguments – discussões
- furniture – mobília
- rarely – raramente

587

Flying Blind

One day at a busy airport, the passengers on a commercial airliner are seated, waiting for the cockpit crew to show up so they can get under way.

The pilot and copilot finally appear in the rear of the plane, and begin walking up to the cockpit through the center aisle. Both appear to be blind.

The pilot is using a white cane, bumping into passengers right and left as he stumbles down the aisle, and the copilot is using a guide dog. Both have their

eyes covered with huge sunglasses.

At first the passengers did not react; thinking that it must be some sort of practical joke.

However, after a few minutes the engines start revving and the airplane starts moving down the runway. The passengers look at each other with some uneasiness, whispering among themselves and looking desperately to the stewardesses for reassurance.

Then the airplane starts accelerating rapidly and people begin panicking. Some passengers are praying, and as the plane gets closer and closer to the end of the runway, the voices are becoming more and more hysterical.

Finally, when the airplane has less than 20 feet of runway left, there is a sudden change in the pitch of the shouts as everyone screams at once and at the very last moment the airplane lifts off and is airborne.

Up in the cockpit, the copilot breathes a sigh of relief and turns to the pilot: “You know, one of these days the passengers aren’t going to scream, and we’re gonna get killed!”

Vocabulary Help

- busy – movimentado
- crew – tripulação
- show up – aparecer
- rear – parte de trás
- aisle – corredor
- blind – cego
- cane – bengala
- bump – bater em, trombar
- stumble – tropeçar
- guide-dog – cão guia de cegos
- huge – enorme
- sunglasses – óculos de sol
- practical-joke – piada habitual
- uneasiness – desconforto
- whisper – sussurrar

- stewardess – aeromoça
- reassurance – conforto
- pray – rezar
- runway – pista de decolagem
- sudden-change – mudança súbita
- pitch – timbre, tom
- shout – gritar
- scream – berrar
- lift off – decolar
- sigh of relief – suspiro de alívio

588

Business

Some people only open up to tell you that they're closed.

Vocabulary Help

- people – pessoas
- only – apenas
- open up – abrir
- tell (tell, told, told) – dizer, contar

589

Old Age

If you want to know how old a man is, ask his brother-in-law.

Vocabulary Help

- brother-in-law – cunhado

590

Eye Testing

An airline pilot with poor eyesight had managed to pass his periodic vision exams by memorizing the eye charts beforehand.

One year, though, his doctor used a new chart that the pilot had never seen before. The pilot proceeded to recite the old chart and the doctor realized that she'd been hoodwinked.

Well, the pilot proved to be nearly blind as a bat. But the doctor could not contain her curiosity. "How is it that someone with your eyesight can manage to pilot a plane at all? I mean, how for example do you taxi the plane out to the runway?"

"Well," says the pilot, "it's really not very hard. All you have to do is follow the instructions of the ground controller over the radio. And besides, the landmarks have all become quite familiar to me over the years."

"I can understand that," replies the doctor "But what about the take-off?"

"Again, a simple procedure. I just aim the plane down the runway, go to full throttle, pull back on the stick, and off we go!"

"But once you're aloft?"

"Oh, everything's fully automated these days. The flight computer knows our destination, and all I have to do is hit the autopilot and the plane pretty much flies itself."

"But I still don't see how you land!"

"Oh, that's the easiest part of all. All I do is use the airport's radio beacon to get us on the proper glide path. Then I just throttle down and wait for the co-pilot to yell, AIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!!, pull the nose up and the plane lands just fine!"

Vocabulary Help

- eyesight – visão
- manage to – conseguir
- eye chart – quadros para teste de visão
- beforehand – antecipadamente
- though – entretanto
- see (see, saw, seen) – ver
- hoodwinked – enganada
- blind – cego
- bat – morcego

- runway – pista de decolagem
- ground controller – controlador de terra
- landmark – marcas topográficas que ajudam a identificar uma região
- take off – decolar
- full throttle – a todo motor
- pull back – puxar para trás
- stick – manche (do avião)
- aloft – no ar
- radio beacon – sinal de rádio
- glide path – caminho de pouso
- pull the nose up – levantar o nariz do avião
- land – aterrissar

591

Cheap Comes Dear

Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Vocabulary Help

- buy (buy, bought, bought) – comprar
- cheap – barato
- dear – caro

592

Stupidity

It is so stupid of modern civilisation to have given up believing in the devil when he is the only explanation of it.

RONALD KNOX, “LET DONS DELIGHT”

Vocabulary Help

- give up – desistir
- believe – acreditar

- devil – diabo

593

The Wolf and the Lamb

Wolf, meeting with a Lamb astray from the fold, resolved not to lay violent hands on him, but to find some plea to justify to the Lamb the Wolf's right to eat him.

He thus addressed him: "Sirrah, last year you grossly insulted me."

"Indeed," bleated the Lamb in a mournful tone of voice, "I was not then born."

Then said the Wolf, "You feed in my pasture."

"No, good sir," replied the Lamb, "I have not yet tasted grass."

Again said the Wolf, "You drink of my well."

"No," exclaimed the Lamb, "I never yet drank water, for as yet my mother's milk is both food and drink to me."

Upon which the Wolf seized him and ate him up, saying, "Well! I won't remain supperless, even though you refute every one of my imputations."

The tyrant will always find a pretext for his tyranny.

Vocabulary Help

- wolf – lobo
- lamb – ovelha
- astray – desgarrada
- fold – rebanho
- plea – razão, justificativa
- eat (eat, ate, eaten) – comer
- grossly – grosseiramente, rudemente
- bleat – balir
- mournful – pesarosa
- born – nascido
- pasture – pasto
- taste – gosto

- grass – grama
- drink (drink, drank, drunk) – beber
- well – poço
- milk – leite
- food – comida
- seize – agarrar
- say – dizer
- supper(less) – jantar (sem jantar)
- refute – refutar
- imputations – acusações

594

Last Elephant Jokes

Q: What kind of elephants live at the North Pole?

A: Cold ones.

Q: What do you get when you cross an elephant with a whale?

A: A submarine with built-in snorkel.

Q: How can you tell when an elephant is getting ready to charge?

A: He asks if you accept Visa.

Q: What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?

A: Time to get a new fence.

Q: Why do elephants travel in herds?

A: Because if they traveled in flocks they might be mistaken for sheep.

Vocabulary Help

- kind – tipos
- cold – frio
- cross – cruzar
- whale – baleia
- built-in – embutido
- snorkel – respirador, usado por nadadores, mergulhadores

- charge – neste caso usou-se um jogo de palavras, charge pode significar tanto atacar como cobrar.
- fence – cerca
- herds – manadas
- flock – rebanho
- sheep – ovelhas
- mistaken – confundidos

595

The Plumber

A lady was expecting the plumber; he was supposed to come at ten o'clock. Ten o'clock came and went; no plumber; eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, one o'clock; no plumber.

She concluded he wasn't coming, and went out to do some errands. While she was out, the plumber arrived.

He knocked on the door; the lady's parrot (did I mention she had a parrot?) said, "Who is it?"

He replied, "It's the plumber."

He thought it was the lady who'd said, "Who is it?" and waited for her to come and let him in.

When this didn't happen, he knocked again, and again the parrot said "Who is it?" He said, "It's the plumber!"

He waited, and again the lady didn't come to let him in. He knocked again, and again the parrot said, "Who is it?"

He said, "IT'S THE PLUMBER!!!!!!!!!"

Again he waited; again she didn't come; again he knocked; again the parrot said, "Who is it?"

"Aarrrrrrrgggggghhhhhh!!!" he said, flying into a rage; he pushed the door in and ripped it off its hinges. He suffered a heart attack and he fell dead in the doorway.

The lady came home from her errands, only to see the door ripped off its

hinges and a corpse lying in the doorway.

‘A dead body!’ she exclaimed, ‘WHO IS IT?!’

The parrot said, ‘It’s the plumber.’

Vocabulary Help

- plumber – encanador
- who is it? – quem é?
- errands – tarefas
- arrive – chegar
- knock – bater
- parrot – papagaio
- reply – responder
- again – novamente
- flying into a rage – ficando furioso
- push – empurrar
- door – porta
- ripped it off its hinges – com as dobradiças arrancadas
- heart attack – ataque do coração
- fall (fall, fell, fallen) – cair
- dead – morto
- doorway – hall de entrada

596

Courage and Foolishness

There’s a fine line between courage and foolishness. Too bad it’s not a fence.

Vocabulary Help

- between – entre
- courage – coragem
- foolishness – idiotice
- bad – ruim
- fence – cerca

597

Don Corleone

Never get angry. Never make a threat. Reason with people.

DON CORLEONE FROM "THE GODFATHER" BY MARIO PUZO

Vocabulary Help

- get angry – ficar nervoso
- threat – ameaça
- reason with – argumentar
- The Godfather – O Poderoso Chefão

598

The Taxi Driver

A priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket and jeans; Saint Peter addresses him:

"Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you into the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi driver, from New York."

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the taxi driver "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Now it's the minister's turn. He stands erect and booms out, "I am the Right Reverend Joseph Snow, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the priest. "That man was a taxi driver and he gets a silken robe and golden staff???"

"Results," shrugged Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; when he drove, people prayed."

Vocabulary Help

- priest – padre, sacerdote

- die – morrer
- wait in line – esperar na fila
- ahead of – na frente
- guy – cara, pessoa
- sunglasses – óculos escuros
- loud shirt – camisa espalhafatosa
- leather – couro
- Kingdom of Heaven – Reino dos Céus
- smile – sorrir
- silken robe – túnica de seda
- golden staff – cajado de ouro
- turn – vez
- boom out – falar alto, solenemente
- cotton robe – túnica de algodão
- wooden – de madeira
- shrug – dar de ombros
- sleep (sleep, slept, slept) – dormir
- pray – rezar

599

Honesty

Honesty is for the most part less profitable than dishonesty.

PLATO

Vocabulary Help

- profitable – lucrativo
- Plato – Platão

600

Consultants

Consultants are mystical people who ask a company for a number and then give it back to them.

Vocabulary Help

- people – pessoas
- ask – pedir
- give it back – devolver

601

God's Second Mistake

Woman was God's second mistake.

NIETZSCHE

Vocabulary Help

- God – Deus
- mistake – erro

602

A Companion

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely. So God asked him:

“What is the matter?”

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that he was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He told him, “This person will gather food for you, cook for you and when you discover clothing, she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make.”

“She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache, and will freely give you love and passion whenever you want it.”

Adam asked God:

“What will a woman like this cost?”

God replied:

“A woman that special will cost an arm and a leg.”

Then Adam asked:

“What can I get for a rib?”

The rest is history.

Vocabulary Help

- lonely – solitário
- What is the matter? – Qual é o problema?
- talk – conversar
- woman – mulher
- gather – juntar
- food – comida
- cook – cozinhar
- clothing – vestuário
- wash – lavar
- agree – concordar
- bear your children – gerar os seus filhos
- get up – levantar
- take care – cuidar
- nag – aborrecer
- wrong – errada
- disagreement – desentendimento
- headache – dor de cabeça
- arm – braço
- leg – perna
- rib – costela

603

Death

He who dies with the most toys is, nonetheless, still dead.

Vocabulary Help

- die – morrer
- toy – brinquedo
- nonetheless – não obstante
- dead – morto

604

Dossier

You can't get very far in this world without your dossier being there first.

Vocabulary Help

- get very far – ir longe
- world – mundo
- without – sem
- being there – estar lá

605

Capitalist Hell vs Communist Hell

A political activist named Dave was just arriving in Hell, and was told he had a choice to make. He could go to Capitalist Hell or to Communist Hell. Naturally, Dave wanted to compare the two, so he wandered over to Capitalist Hell. There, outside the door, was Rockefeller, looking bored.

“What’s it like in there?” asked Dave.

“Well,” he replied, “In Capitalist Hell they flay you alive, boil you in oil, chain you to a rock and let a vulture tear your liver out and cut you up into small pieces with sharp knives.”

“That’s terrible!!” gasped Dave. “I’m going to check out Communist Hell!”

He went over to Communist Hell, where he discovered a huge line of people waiting to get in; the line circled around the lobby seven times before receding off into the horizon. Dave pushed his way through to the head of the line, where he found Karl Marx busily signing people in.

Dave asked Karl what Communist Hell was like:

“In Communist Hell,” said Marx impatiently ‘they flay you alive, boil you in oil, chain you to a rock and let vultures tear out your liver and cut you up into small pieces with sharp knives.’”

“But ... but that’s the same as Capitalist Hell!”

“Yes, but sometimes we don’t have oil, sometimes we don’t have knives, ...”

Vocabulary Help

- tell (tell, told, told) – contar
- choice – escolha
- looking bored – parecendo chateado aborrecido
- flay alive – esfolar vivo
- boil in oil – ferver em óleo
- chain to a rock – amarrar a uma pedra
- vulture – abutre
- liver – fígado
- sharp knives – facas afiadas
- check out – verificar, ver como é
- huge – imensa
- line – fila
- get in – entrar
- push – forçar, empurrar
- head of the line – começo da fila
- sigh – suspirar

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Head in the Sand

If you stick your head in the sand, one thing is for sure, you’re gonna get your rear kicked.

Vocabulary Help

- stick your head in the sand – enfiar a cabeça na areia
- for sure – certo
- gonna (going to) – vai

- rear – traseiro
- kicked – chutado

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Guarantees

All warranty and guarantee clauses become null and void upon payment of invoice.

Vocabulary Help

- warranty – garantia
- clauses – cláusulas
- become null and void – se tornam inválidas e nulas
- upon payment – com o pagamento
- invoice – fatura